Colossians

Living the Resurrected Life!

Lesson #6 - (3:1-3:17)

***3:1-4 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.***

The key to living the resurrection life, is to have a mind and indeed a life that is focused and centered on Christ!

Paul begins to unpack what the resurrected life looks like. From here he gets very practical.

***5Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6On account of these the wrath of God is coming.7In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.***

**Vs 5** – ***therefore****….*

**Vs 5** - ***Put to death*** – “Kill” those things **(imperative tense)** that are earthly in you.

*“****8*** *And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.* ***9*** *And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.” (Mt 18:8-9 ESV)*

Now Paul provides two lists of things. These two lists are not exhaustive but rather representative of fleshly things that should no longer be a part of our lives.

1. ***sexual immorality -* πορνεία** (por-ni’-ah) – We get the word pornography from this word and **γράφω** (graf’-o) which means writing (or picture). Thus, pornography is writing or pictures about sexual sin.

This Greek word is often translated fornication. It refers to every type of forbidden, illicit, sexual contact.

As believers in Jesus, we are to “kill” illicit sexual behavior.

Paul said it this way to the church in Thessalonica:

*“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;” (1Th 4:3 ESV)*

Paul moves from the outward act to the thoughts, motivations, and inclinations.

1. ***Impurity –*** This is often translated uncleanness and would refer to any type of moral uncleanness. **This would be in action, thought, or speech.**

Evil behavior begins with impure thoughts.

1. **Passion –** passion, extreme emotion that appears to overtake someone. **The word could be translated lust. The idea is uncontrolled passions.**
2. ***Evil cravings or evil desires***

Paul reminds believers, to put to death these evil desires before they ever get too far down the road.

Now up to this point all of Paul’s refences of what we are to put to death have to do with **sexual immorality or sexual vice**.

1. ***Covetousness –*** The concluding sin we are to put to death is at first very surprising. It is greed, covetous, or agreedy desire. The desire for what is not yours.

***17****“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”*

Covetousness or greed is the root from which all these other sins spring. It is the desire to have what is not lawful or right for us to have. If unchecked, it begins to bloom into evil desires, uncontrolled passions, impure thoughts and activities and ultimately illicit sexual conduct.

Coveting may not seem like a big deal to us. It is after all a **secret sin**, it does not directly impact other people and at first glance it does not hurt anyone. **But it is really what is behind coveting that makes it such a big deal.**

When we covet, what we are really saying is twofold:

1. God I am not pleased with your provisions for my life.
2. If I were God, I would have done this totally different.

**3:5b *- Which is idolatry***

**Greedy desire for anything takes our focus off God and that is probably Paul’s overall point!**

**Vs 6 – *It is because of these things that God’s wrath is coming upon children of disobedience.***

When we talk about God’s wrath, the Greek word used here is **ὀργή** (or-gay’)

*“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” (Joh 3:36 ESV)*

**Vs 7 –** This was the manner and flow of our lives before Jesus.

**Having provided a list of five things we are to put to death; Paul now provides a list of six things we are to put off, the picture is like removing dirty garments.**

**Vs 8-9a *- But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9Do not lie to one another,***

The first list contained sins that were all sexual in nature, these are personal and social in nature. These are things around and about how we interact with other people.

**We are to put off, like removing dirty garments:**

1. ***Anger*** *-* ὀργή (or-gay’) – wrath, anger, or temper. This is deep seated, smoldering, resentful bitterness. ANGER!

1. ***Wrath*** – heated anger, angry passion, a **boiling over anger**. This is that sudden outburst of anger that we have all experienced, both on the giving and receiving ends.

This is that anger explosion. The Greeks likened this anger to fire in straw, it flares up quickly, burns brightly, and often quite hot.

1. ***Malice***– The desire to injure. This is the desire to harm another person. This is a wicked disposition to harm another person.
2. ***Slander*** - injurious speech, to slander another person. This is where we with our lips speak words with the goal of destroying another person’s reputation.

This is the same word for blasphemy and when used against other men it is translated slander.

1. ***Obscene talk*** –This is abusive or foul-mothed talk. Paul’s point seems to be when this type of foul-mouthed speech is directed at another person.

But of course, these words can go beyond that to include all obscene talk.

1. ***Do not lie to one another*** – To tell a deliberate falsehood. Here Paul reminds the believers in Colossae the seriousness of lying. This would include all forms of misrepresenting the truth.

Paul provides five things we are to kill and six things we are to take off or remove. **Paul then reminds us why (a second time).**

**Vs 9b-10 *seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.***

**Here we are given the ultimate reason that we put these behaviors off, for these types of behaviors are part of the old man and not the new way of life.**

Last week Ladi reminded us:

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2Co 5:17 ESV)*

The old man has died, and thus we are to put him off and put on the new man.

**Now you may be thinking OK, so what do I need to do to put on this new man?**

**Vs 10b-** Paul tells us: ***which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.***

***Being renewed –*** Is in the present tense, it expresses an ongoing process of spiritual renewal.

As a believer you and I are continually and qualitatively being renewed. We are being made new (renewed) in our minds, by knowledge.

The companion verses in Ephesians are very helpful:

*“****22*** *to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,* ***23*** *and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,* ***24*** *and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Eph 4:22-24 ESV)*

Let’s go back to our first week in this study:

*“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,” (Col 1:9 ESV)*

**Growth in the knowledge of God, that is applied to our lives, results in spiritual growth.**

**VS 11 - *Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised,*** ***barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.***

It is here, in the new covenant family, in the family of believers that all distinctions are erased!

Typically, the New Testament mentions Jew and Greek, here Paul brings in other people groups to make sure the point is clear.

The Hebrews, later referred to as Jews, were a nation with a special and unique identity.

**In Christ, there is no longer national distinction.**

The next group that Paul mentions is circumcised and uncircumcised.

Next ***barbarian* -** one who has rude speech, and rough behavior, a barbarian.

Next***Scythian* -** this was a people group located along the northern shore of the Black Sea. To the Greeks they were violent, uneducated, uncivilized, and in every way an inferior people.

A fellowship of Jews, Greeks, and Scythians would have been unthinkable!

**Next slaves –** to the Greek, the lowest form men and women who are viewed not as people, but as tools, something you own.

Next***free*.** A fellowship of slaves and slave owners would have equally been unthinkable in Paul’s day.

But that is exactly what the church is! Equality at the cross, with the Spirit of God living in all believers. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***12Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

Paul instructed the church in Colossae what they **should not do**, Paul now picks up the points of what they **should do**.

He presents these as clean garments that we should ***put on***.

**Before we unpack his points, lets first review how he describes the church.**

**Vs 12** – ***God’s chosen ones –*** The Greek word is **ἐκλεκτός** (ek-lek-tos’) = It means picked out or chosen. It highlights the reality that as believers God chose us.

A few verses will be helpful!

*“****1*** *¶ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are* ***elect*** *exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,* ***2*** *according to the* ***foreknowledge*** *of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.” (1Pe 1:1-2 ESV)*

The Greek word is **πρόγνωσις** (prog’-no-sis) means foreknowledge in the sense of prearrangement. The idea is not seeing in advance the outcome but determining in advance the outcome.

*“****22*** *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know —* ***23*** *this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.” (Ac 2:22-23 ESV)*

Now this is indeed a mystery. But the Bible teaches two things over and over again with great clarity.

1. To be saved you must of your own free will and volition, choose to believe the gospel, choose to place your faith in Jesus.
2. If you are saved, it is because God chose you in him before the foundation of the world.

**Companion text:**

*“****3*** *¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,* ***4*** *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love* ***5*** *he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,* ***6*** *to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” (Eph 1:3-6 ESV)*

**You and I, like the believers in Colossae are God’s chosen ones.** This is meant to bring great comfort, security, joy, and peace.

***Holy -* ἅγιος** (hag’-ee-os) - It means to be set apart, but it also means holy, as in the characteristic that uniquely belongs to God.

**Beloved - ἀγαπάω** (ag-ap-ah’-o) – is that perfect unconditional love that flows from God to his children. You and I are “loved” by God. We are His beloved!

Then Paul strings together a list of twelve things that we should do, things that we should ***put on****.*

**Therefore, as the people whom God loves with an unconditional love. Put on…**

1. ***Compassionate hearts*** *–* The first word is bowels; the second word is mercy, pity or compassion. The idea is bowels of compassion.

We should put on bowels of mercy, bowls of compassion, to use the **ESV** compassionate hearts, **NKJV** – tender mercies, **HCSB** – heartfelt compassion.

1. ***Kindness*** – integrity, goodness, kindness.
2. ***Humility –*** A deep sense of our smallness, a humble mind, a lowly mind.
3. ***Meekness –*** gentleness, mildness, or meekness. It is of course closely related to humility.
4. ***Patience –*** patience, endurance, steadfastness, longsuffering, slowness in getting angry.
5. ***Bearing with one another –*** The idea here is holding up or enduring sin spite of persecution, threats, injury, or indifference.
6. ***Forgiving one another – (even if we have a complaint or a quarrel),*** showing grace to one another, looking past our faults and to our relationship, being gracious towards one another.

The Paul provides the reason we are to forgive one another, the reason we are to look past the

**Vs 13b** - ***as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.***

Many times, in the scriptures we come to things that require no additional commentary, this is clearly one of those things. A reminder:

*“****14*** *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,* ***15*** *but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Mt 6:14-15 ESV)*

Forgiveness is a mark of those who are forgiven.

1. ***Love -*** ***above all these put-on love…***

The Greek word is **ἀγάπη** (ag-ah’-pay) – This is the selfless kind of love that God loves you and I with. We are to put on this kind of love!

This kind of love, Paul tells us, brings everything together in perfect harmony.

1. **Vs 15 -** ***Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts –*** let Christ’s peace control your heart so that you are not affected by adversity from people or disturbance due to circumstances.

Put on… The peace of Christ and let it rule your hearts.

1. ***Be Thankful*** *–* Thankfulness, like forgiveness is a mark of a believer.

**You and I are to be thankful for all that God has done for us**!

*“give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1Th 5:18 ESV)*

1. ***Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly***, ***teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.***

Here the picture is a person who is reading, studying, meditating on God’s word and that word moving in and taking up residence in us.

It is the truth of the scriptures permeating every aspect of our lives.

This is a person who uses the word of God as a light for his or her path and helps light the paths of others.

This is a person whose heart is filled with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

This is a person who fills their heart and mind with the word of God, allows it to direct them, and helps others to be directed by that same word of God!

To get the full grasp, letting the word of Christ dwell in us is the same idea as “being filled with the Spirit”, we see this in the companion text:

*“****18*** *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,* ***19*** *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,” (Eph 5:18-19 NKJV)*

Notice, with thankfulness in our hearts!

1. ***Whatever you do, in word or deed, do it in the name of Jesus***

Do everything like you were doing it for Christ. If you are leading a ministry, do so like you are doing it for Christ and in his name.

***Notice again, giving thanks to God the Father through Christ.*** In case we missed it, we are to be a thankful people! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_