



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Colossians 3:5-8

Put to Death Therefore what is Earthly

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Colossians 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. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:5-8

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you

Therefore: Considering what we covered in v1-4

- A motivation for our fight against sin is believing we are right with God in Christ (v3) and our eternal inheritance is secure (v4)
- Our striving is “gratitude” driven (Indicative/Imperative)

Put to death what is earthly in you

- One reason (or part of) why we may not be having victory over our sin is our approach to sin is taken too lightly
- ***Put to death:*** Slay, kill, mortify (this is serious-It’s war)
 - If you joke around about sin, you are not taking this seriously
 - Owen: “Be killing sin or it will be killing you”
 - “There are only two ways we deal with sin; recklessly or ruthlessly”
 - **Luke 9:23** *“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”*

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you

If we are putting something to death, we are NOT seeing how close we can get to it

- *Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched* **Proverbs 6:27 -28**
- **1 Corinthians 9:27** *I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*
- **Romans 8:13** *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*
- We are bringing the unredeemed aspect of us (flesh) into subjection with the redeemed and freed aspect of us (new man)
- I want to do this, but how do I do this?

Two lists are given: v5b and v8

V5 sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- Fleshly deed “sexual immorality” and works backwards to root of “covetousness/idolatry”
- If we are going “*put to death*” these sins, we must see their place of origin and kill them there
- **Covetousness:** greedy desire to have more; lack of contentment
 - **Phil 4:11** *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content*
 - *V12-13 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*
 - **2 Cor 12:10** *For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

V5 sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

When I begin to look to these “other things” instead of Christ for my contentment, and I begin to worship these things (joy/identity found in them)-This is idolatry (dethroning of Christ in my heart)

- *Evil desire* (lustful)
- When lustful desires stir and are enticed by the world they grow into *passion* (inordinate affection)
 - **1 Thess 4:3-5** *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5not in the **passion of lust** like the Gentiles who do not know God*
- *Impurity*: Impure motives, evil thoughts
- What does all this finally manifest in? Sexual immorality
- Where did it all begin? In the mind (low view of Christ, insufficient) How will I fight this? V2

But now you must put them away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

Put away: Putting off (clothes)

Begins with *anger* in the heart moves towards action
obscene talk from mouth

Anger in heart/mind if not put to death grows into *wrath* (flame, glow), if not put to death grows into *malice* (ill-will, desire to hurt), if not put to death grows into *slander* (ruin name), if not put to death grows into *obscene talk from your mouth*

- Do we see the connection from the mind/heart to the deeds?
- The battle is in the mind (setting on things above)

Motivation v6-7

6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming:

Eph 5 *“Do not be deceived”* (Don’t minimize)

- *“Must not be named among you v3” “Do not associate with them v7”, “Take no part v11”, “It is shameful even to speak of the things they do v12”*
- Again we must not be trying to see “how close we can get” but rather *“flee youthful passions/lusts and pursue righteousness”* 2 Tim 2:22
- We should warn ourselves & others regarding the wrath of God

7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

- To walk in these things is gospel inconsistency
- This is contrary to our new nature (this is not who we are anymore)

Summary

- There must be a violent battle against sin where we are purposing to put sin to death
- We do this by getting to the root of our sin (in the mind/heart)
- It isn't enough to turn from sin, we must turn to the greater promises of Christ in our warfare against sin
- Are you putting sin to death?
- “Too hard, too much”: **1 Corinthians 10:13** *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*
- I am tired, is this battle going to end?

Romans 8:22-25 *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*