



Colossians: Jesus Over Everything

September 24 – Colossians 3:5-11

Section 1: Introduction

Last week, the focal point of our verses could be summarized this way: Christ's people are already risen with him, so the activity of their minds and wills should reflect that reality, and Christ should be the object of both mind and action.

With that as our foundation, this week we will begin to see how Paul instructs the Colossians to live out a life now hidden with Christ in God (3:3) and what the results of setting their minds on things above will be. In order to live a life that reflects Christ's nature, we must put to death our sinful nature, allowing Christ to renew and reform us into his image, with his nature. Putting to death the earthly nature is the main idea of this section of Colossians 3.

Read Colossians 3:5-11.

Mark any words or phrases that stand out to you, inviting God to lead your reading.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or

uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all (Colossians 3:5-11).

Section 2: Walk slowly through this week's passage

Colossians 3:5-6: Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

- Whenever we see a "therefore" in Scripture, it's best to read the passage prior to it so see how it relates. Read Colossians 3:1-4. What Paul is referring to in his "therefore"?
- What does Paul tell the Colossians to put to death?
- According to verse 6, what is coming because of these?

Colossians 3:7-10: But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

- How does verse 7 relate to Colossians 2:20 and 3:1-4?
- What does Paul tell the Colossians they must also rid themselves of?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. How does this verse connect to verse 10? What is the new self being renewed in?

Colossians 3:11: Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

- What does this verse tell us about the new humanity re-created in Christ?

Section 3: Reflection questions

Our new nature “*is being renewed.*” This tells us that our continual renewal does not result solely from our own efforts. We are always needing more renewal (see Romans 12:2). The renewed person becomes the creative handiwork of God. The new nature comes as God’s gift, not as the result of our will-worship (see 2:23), our will power, or our self-actualization. What we must do is to work out the salvation that God has worked and will continue to work out in our lives (Philippians 2:12–13).

While the renewal is the work of the Holy Spirit within us, we participate in the process. N.T. Wright says, “To put something to death you must cut off its lines of supply: it is futile and self-deceiving to bemoan one’s inability to resist the last stage of a temptation when earlier stages have gone by unnoticed, or even eagerly welcomed...[E]very Christian has the responsibility, before God, to investigate the lifelines of whatever sins are defeating him personally, and to cut them off without pity. Better that than have them eventually destroy him.”

- Look at Colossians 3:5-11. What needs to be put to death? Or where do you need to cut off sin’s “lines of supply” in your own life? What would that look like?
- What does being “renewed in *knowledge in the image of its Creator*” look like in your own life?
- How do you need to partner with the Holy Spirit to live out Colossians 3:5-11? Where do you need the Lord’s help? Where do you need to participate?

Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using Colossians 3:5-11, write out a prayer in response to what you've read OR use the prayer already constructed below to pray this passage.

Sample Prayer:

Lord Jesus,

Give me the courage to cut off any lingering connection to my old nature that has been put to death already in you. Reveal to me anything that has captured my affections that belong to my earthly nature. Remind me of the new life you have given and the power of your resurrection that is at work within me. Rid my life of the things that keep me from being fully surrendered to you as my King. Renew my mind that I may reflect your image. In your name, Amen.

Section 5: Memorize Scripture

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get Colossians 3:5-11 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out the passage: Write down Colossians 3:5-11 in your journal or on a notecard.
2. Memorize Colossians 3:5-11. Using various techniques to memorize the passage, such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm, take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Review and practice: Regularly review the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.