

**First Baptist Church Merritt Island**  
**Senior Pastor Titus Green**  
**May 11, 2025**  
**COLOSSIANS – Hope of Glory**  
**Out With the Old**  
**Colossians 3:5-11**

One of the most significant Christian thinkers in the early church was a man named Augustine, also known as Saint Augustine. He served as the Bishop of Hippo (what is in modern-day Algeria) from 390 to 430 AD then retired to Florida where they named a city after him. Just kidding about that last part. He was influential on the theology and philosophy of the early church and wrote a large collection of books. He was also surprisingly open about his life before he became a Christian and many of his struggles as a new follower of Christ.

In one autobiographical account, Augustine recalls the promiscuity that was a part of his youth and his early days as a Christian. He knew the Bible calls us to a life of purity and holiness, but the draw toward sin was still deeply rooted in his flesh. One day, as he was contemplating his struggle with certain sins, he cried out, “Oh Lord, make me chaste and celibate...but not yet.”

He was highlighting a conflict within himself. In a way, he wanted to be pure and God-honoring in the way he lived his life. He just wasn't ready to give up sin to get there. Throughout the centuries, Christians have identified with that phrase. Within each of us, there is a conflict, a tension that exists between the person we were without Christ and how we are called to live in Christ.

And when many of us are honest, we might say that we really want to be pure and holy, just not today. And that's what Paul is addressing in the next passage of our verse-by-verse study of the book of Colossians.

Before we read our text, let me go ahead and give you the Big Idea for this morning so you can be looking for it as we read our passage.

***Big Idea: Since believers are being renewed in Christ, we must be serious and specific in our fight against sin.***

***Colossians 3:5–11***

***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. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.***

So, what was your Mother's Day sermon about?

- Quickly connect the section we are in with the relational section that flows out of this teaching...



- The best way for us to have a healthy relationship (with our children or with our parents), is to have a growing relationship with Jesus.

Ok. So, let's dig into our text and unpack the Big Idea for today.

# 1. Believers are being renewed in Christ...

## **Colossians 3:9-10**

***Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.***

One of the reasons I'm starting here is because this is really an extension of what last week's message was about. When we come to place our faith and trust in Jesus, God makes us a new creation in Christ with a new identity in Him. It's something He does by His power, not something we make happen in our own.

## *2 Corinthians 5:17*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

If you are trusting in Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, then you are a new creation with a new identity. Any conversation about how we live the Christian life has to begin and end right here. We are called to live like we believe Jesus has and is doing a work to make us new. There is all the difference in the world between living like we have to change by our own power and living like we believe Jesus has already changed us by His power. And, let me just remind of what we saw about our new identity in Christ in the verses we studied last week.

- You have died with Christ - *Colossians 3:3 For you have died...*
- You have been raised with Christ. - *Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ,*
- You have Christ living in You - *Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is your life appears,*
- You will be glorified when Christ returns (made just like Jesus – body, soul, spirit) - *Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

And Paul is effectively restating those truths in verses 9-10.

***Verse 9 - you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self,***

That's something that has already happened. Those phrases "put off" and "put on" are used to describe changing clothes. When you trust in Jesus, the person you were without Christ is put away like a change of dirty clothes. And the new self is put on. You're robed in the righteous life of Christ. That's just another way of saying you've died and been raised to new life in Christ. It's already happened in the past when you first placed your faith and trust in Jesus.

***Verse 10 - the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.***



In Christ, we are being renewed. That word “renewal” is only used a couple of times in the New Testament. It’s referring to an inner strengthening that enables something new. It’s the same word Paul uses in 2 Corinthians 4 renewal is an inner, spiritual strengthening.

#### **2 Corinthians 4:16**

*So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.*

Paul is contrasting the decay of our bodies with the strengthening God gives to our inner man as we trust in Jesus. In our text, that word is in the present tense. It’s happening over and over and over again. And it’s passive. It’s something that is happening to us.

In other words, Paul is saying that since Christ is our life, we are being given all the strength we need to live the Christian life every moment of every day in every circumstance – that’s Christ living in us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

And what is it that Christ is empowering? Verse 10 says this renewal is in the image of the Creator. That’s Jesus. As we trust in Jesus, God is renewing us by His power to become more and more like Jesus. That’s a work that will culminate with us being fully made like Christ, something the Bible refers to as glorified. So, in verse 10, Paul is just restating what he said in verses 1-4: Christ is our life and is doing a work that will result in us being transformed to his image – glorified.

That’s who we are in Jesus. And Paul is building his exhortation to fight sin on the foundation of our identity in Christ. Notice that in verse 9.

#### **Colossians 3:9-10**

***Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.***

Paul gets to the list of sins that shouldn’t be part of our lives, and he says it’s because that’s not who we are any more in Christ. That’s part of the old self who died when we came to Jesus. That’s not part of the new self that Christ is empowering.

When Jesus lives in us, He lives like Jesus in us. And Jesus doesn’t live in sin. That’s not who Christ is and that’s not who we are in Christ.

That brings us to the next part of our big idea...

2. Since believers are being renewed in Christ, we must be SERIOUS in our fight against sin.

#### **Colossians 3:5**

***Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.***



Paul isn't messing around. When he describes the way we are to approach sin, he says, "Kill it." Don't play around with it. Don't tolerate it. Don't manage it. Don't excuse it. Kill it. Take it out behind the barn and pull an old yeller on it. You are either killing sin or it's killing you.

And he doesn't just say put sin to death. He says put the sin to death that is in you.

Paul knows something about human nature. He knows that we are more than willing to attack sin...as long as it is in other people's lives. All of us have a list of sin that we won't tolerate in the lives of others when it's directed at us. It's easy to hate the sin that other people commit, especially when it's a sin that we don't struggle with.

We are more than happy to go on the attack against the sin we see in others, we are far less aggressive with the sin in our own lives. But we are experts in excusing the sin that's in ourselves.

So, Paul calls us to declare war on our own sin. But he doesn't leave it at that. Look at verse 6.

***Colossians 3:6***

***On account of these the wrath of God is coming.***

God's wrath is coming in judgment on sin.

***Romans 1:18***

***For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.***

The holy wrath of God is coming against all ungodliness and sin. Sin in every form is an attack against the goodness and holiness of God. And the only just response from God toward sin is a holy wrath that will one day be poured out on sin.

Paul isn't saying that we will go to hell if we sin as believers. Romans 5:9 says we have been saved from the wrath of God if are trusting in Jesus. Romans 8:1 says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. I don't believe Paul is speaking out of both sides of his mouth and saying that we will lose our salvation if we sin. So, why does he mention the wrath of God?

I believe he is reminding us of how serious sin is so that we will take it seriously in our own lives. In order to save us from the wrath of God, Jesus had to die an excruciating death in our place, enduring God's wrath at the cross. If we are truly trusting in Jesus, then why would we participate in sin that stirs up the wrath of God in our Father's heart.

And, if you don't have a Spirit-given conviction and hatred of your own sin, then there is something fundamentally not right about your relationship with God. And you need to get before Him today and begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal whether or not you are trusting in Jesus and willing to yield your whole heart and life to Him.



This is a sober call to get serious in our war against sin. True believers who are being renewed in the image of Jesus can't be flippant in our fight against sin.

So, examine your life today. Are you taking your sin seriously? Are you eager to attack the sin in your own life the way you oppose the types of sin you won't tolerate in the lives of others? Does your heart match the heart of the Father in your hatred of sin?

Our text is a call to get serious in our fight against sin. But that's not all we see.

3. Since believers are being renewed in Christ, we must be SPECIFIC in our fight against sin.

***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. 9 Do not lie to one another,***

We don't have time to walk through each one of these sins. But, let me give you a couple observations. Paul gives two lists of five sins each. The first list highlights sexual sin that was rampant in first century Roman cultures like these Christians would have been living in. And he works from the outside in – from action to attitude. Sexual immorality is a general term for any sexual act outside of the marriage covenant between a husband and wife. And “husband and wife” means a biological male and female.

Now, let me use that to illustrate a point I made a moment ago. I'm guessing some of us were really glad that I got really specific just now. We don't think there should be any wiggle room on the sins of homosexuality or adultery. We don't think Christians should tolerate those sins and be ok with them in the lives of people, especially people who claim to be Christ-followers. And there shouldn't be redefining of sin or wiggle room on what the Bible says is sin.

Here's my question: do you have that same kind of intolerance for the sins we are about to mention that just might be part of your life?

Passion and evil desire are references to the lustful impulses that are part of our sinful condition. So, Paul is moving from the actions of our bodies to the inclinations of our minds. And he ends that list with covetousness, or greed. He goes all the way to the heart issue that is underneath all sexual sin. It's a desire to have something that isn't rightfully yours to have.

And Paul says that idolatry. That's the heart behind every sin, not just sexual sin. The root of sin is our failure to honor and worship God as God.

The second list of sin works from the inside out. Anger and wrath are conditions of our hearts. Now, anger in and of itself isn't a sin. We just saw that God is angry over sin. But sinful anger and wrath is what happens when we try to stand in the place of God and wish to punish others when they do something that offends us. That's why Paul says goes to malice. We want to see them harmed. We



want to see them pay. We'll talk more about this next week, but in the next paragraph, Paul calls us to have a heart that matches God. A heart that desires to forgive and restore. So, here, Paul calls us to attack the sin in our hearts that would make us angry toward others in a way that desires to see them harmed rather than restored.

He continues moving from the inside out by saying we need to put away slander and obscene talk. When we harbor sinful anger toward others, it begins to come out in the way we talk to them or about them. We speak disparagingly about them. We put them down.

And there are lots of application to this, but for this morning I just want you to see that as Paul gets specific with sin, he illustrates the entire spectrum of sin that might be part of our lives. He is saying that each expression of sin is to be dealt with like every expression of sin. It's to be put to death. If you are involved in sexual immorality, recognize it and put it to death. If you hate sexually immoral people (or anyone else) and maliciously want to see them destroyed, recognize it as sin and put it to death. If you slander others or engage in unhealthy conversations about people, recognize it as sin and put it to death.

And don't just focus on the works of your hands. Focus on the condition of your heart. Is there an absence of holy love? Is there a desire to pay people back? Is there unholy anger or greed? Don't play games with sin. Don't tolerate it in yourself while you oppose it in others. Get specific with sin. Call it out and confess it to God and put it to death.

I want to encourage you to take some time and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the areas of your life where you might be harboring unrepentant sin. Ask God to show you your heart. Ask Him to reveal the way you talk that isn't honoring to Him and a blessing to others. Ask Him to expose the works of your flesh. And declare war on sin.

If you are trusting in Jesus, you are being renewed by the Spirit of Christ who lives in you. He is providing you, each and every day, with the power to say "no" to sin. So, get serious and get specific and step into the life Jesus died and rose again to give you.

And as we close, I want to give you two quick points of application that are essential in our fight against sin.

## 1. SATURATE YOUR MIND WITH GOD'S WORD

***10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.***

How is it that God renews our inner man through the power of Jesus? In knowledge. We are strengthened in Christ as the knowledge of His word saturates our hearts and minds.

*Romans 12:2*

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*



As our minds are filled with the Word of God, our lives will be transformed by the power of God to live out the will of God. So, live in the Word. Read it. Study it. Memorize it. Believe it. Obey it.

We experience the renewing power of God to defeat sin as we saturate our minds with His word.

## 2. SETTLE YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

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

This is an incredible verse. Paul lays out every point of identity that is part of our lives here on earth.

- Greek and Jew is a reference to national and ethnic identity.
- Circumcised and uncircumcised is a reference to religious identity.
- Barbarian and Scythian is a reference to cultural identity. Scythians were regarded as the epitome of uncultured people. Barbarians were a reference to uneducated, uncivilized people.
- Slave and free is a reference to social or economic identity.

And Paul says that as followers of Jesus none of those things are to form our identity. They are all earthly and temporary. They aren't how we should see ourselves and they aren't how we should see each other. The only thing that matters is Jesus. He defines us. He is our life. For us to live is Christ, not sin and not anything else.

Just think how you would live your life if the only thing that truly mattered to you was Jesus. Not your national pride. Not your religious pedigree. Not your cultural or social or economic standing. Nothing but Jesus. His life. His will. His desires. His Kingdom. His glory.

Paul is saying, "Settle your identity here and now. Is your life centered on Jesus or is your life centered on anything else? Is Jesus your life? Because if He isn't then you are living in sin and are destined to stay there."

The only thing that truly matter is Jesus. So, look to Jesus. Trust in Jesus. Depend on Jesus. And be transformed by Jesus.