

1st Over All

Colossians

Week 11 – Colossians 3:5-11

Aggressive Saints Pt. 1 – Killing Sin

Purpose: Christians will grow taking aggressive action to kill the sin that is set toward killing them. The Justified and Sanctified Saint with Risen Vision will take action to kill sin. Christians hope only and fully in Jesus Christ!

Call to Worship

Rise and Read

Colossians 3:5-11 ESV

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, 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.

Prayer

Gratitude for giving us life in Jesus Christ and the determination to act against the things that destroy people and make it look like we do not belong to God.

Sermon

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

The Gifts of Two Brothers

There is an account of two brothers. One was a farmer and one was a rancher. They were both successful in their work. One day, the brothers brought an offering to God. The farmer brother, Cain, brought the first fruits of his harvest to God. The rancher brother, Able, brought to God his first-born animal, and fat portions that he had saved. God viewed Able's offering with favor but did not view Cain's offering with favor. Cain was angry with how God looked upon his offering. God corrected Cain and gave Cain two points of direction. First, submit his offerings appropriately and God would accept it. Second, if Cain did not submit offerings appropriately, crouching sin would rule over him if Cain did not master it. We see that based upon Cain's

murder of Able that Cain did not master sin and put it to death. It killed him and he, in turn, killed his brother.

Through a risen vision, looking to Jesus Christ who is 1st Over All, we see sin the way God sees sin and we, living out of the sanctifying work done in us, set about to kill sin so that it doesn't master us. The saint longs to serve God alone!

Let's continue studying Paul's letter to the Colossian saints to grow in making Jesus Christ 1st Over All Things!

1st Over All Reminder

(SLIDE 2)

We Need God's Help

Be A Catalyst for Worship

God Makes Us Worthy to Walk

We Live to Show Christ is 1st Over All

We Will Live as Reconciled People

(SLIDE 3)

We Will Make Christ Known

We Will Live as "Connected In" People

We Will Live Liberated in Jesus Christ

We Will Live Sanctified in Jesus Christ

We Live with Risen Vision

Read

Colossians 3:5-11 ESV

(SLIDE 4) **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.

(SLIDE 5) **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.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 6)

Notes on Colossians 3:5-11

Kill Sin (v. 5-6)

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.

The directive Paul wrote in the first two verses of chapter three carries into this section. Paul writes, “If you have been raised with Christ...Set your minds on things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” Paul continues directing the saints to live in the effect of risen vision or living from the work done to make the Christian holy and set apart. The Christian lives out the sanctifying work done in him and her by seeing sin for what it is and does and then taking action to kill it. These things, sin, are the remnants of “what is earthly” inside the heart of the saint. It isn’t that Jesus Christ’s work on the cross, and His resurrection were not effective, it is the truth that our response to that work has not yet become fully responsive. Although we are dead with Christ to our old life and are also raised with Christ to walk in new life, we are weak and do not live according to the new heart, soul, and mind we are given.

This first list in this passage are things that the old flesh desires and the Christian is striving to attain by their own desire and ability. Some of the sins are sexual in nature, yet others are not. Some of the sins seem to be things idol worship and the Christian pursues them as an act of worship. Paul links them in what seems to be the Christian reacting to old desires and values and trying to meet old needs on his or her terms without restraint or self-control. These things show that the Christian needs God’s help to respond to these sins with great effectiveness. Paul writes that these sins will bring God’s wrathful response upon those who do not belong to Him and do these things. Paul is insinuating that they are saved people who are acting like unsaved people when they do these things. Paul isn’t threatening the saint that they will face God’s wrath, but that the wrath of God is a real thing and it will be poured out upon the unregenerated person who does not belong to God who freely pursues these sins and finds satisfaction in doing them. These sins are, as Paul writes in I Corinthians 6:18, sins that are against themselves. These are usually committed with another person, but Paul writes that they are harmful to the one committing the sin. Paul makes a distinction in I Corinthians 6:18 with sins that are sexual in nature. He is doing something similar there with this second list in this passage.

One idea about this particular list of sins is that these are things the flesh heart and mind desire and the person acts like God and strives to meet those desires. It is gratification of desire with disregard for God’s desire and will.

Continue Killing Sin (v. 7-8)

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.

Paul connects the sinful actions to the things the Christian once did without restraint or conviction. Christians were once facing God’s wrath and their lives showed that their hearts and minds were darkened and rebellious. That is not who they are now! Therefore, as God is making them holy and setting them apart for His joy and good works they must do things out of the sanctifying work of God in their hearts and minds. Paul commands them to put these old things away! The list that Paul gives in verse eight is different than the list in verse five. This list, like

verse five, isn't exhaustive. The difference of this list from verse five is that these sins are sins that seem to specifically impact fellowship. All sin is rooted in the person thinking they are God. The sins in this list show that the person committing them are purposefully trying to destroy another person or people. The collateral impact of all sin is that it impacts the Body of Christ. But this list includes sins that are actively and purposefully directed at others to cause pain and suffering. Paul seems to be writing that the things that were maybe valued in the Colossian pagan culture and were used to do to other people were no longer part of their lives. Christians were directed to kill the sexual sins, and now they are also directed to kill these sins too.

Life is Revealed in Practice (v. 9-10)

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.

The old life was dominated by lying. It isn't the only action done in the old life, but it was a major part of life for the Colossians. So, Paul addresses it in the directive to "put off" the old self (sinful ways that were done in ignorance of God and His wrath) and to "put on" new self that is daily being made into the image of Christ. All things, including people, were made through, for, and by Him. He is in authority over all creation, the imagery being Jesus Christ sitting at the right hand of God. The Christian is no longer a slave to sin that dominated and corrupted the old person. The wrath of God will pour out on those whom Jesus Christ never knew and whose actions reveal their rebellious and corrupt heart. The Christian is saved from this wrath, since God poured it out completely upon Christ as a substitution for the Christian. Instead of rejection and wrath, God is renewing the Christian. The Christian is growing in knowledge that comes from faith and through the Word of God and the work of the Spirit. Therefore, the old actions that are displeasing to God and destructive to people are put away or put off and the new life is working itself into the child of God. The condition of the heart, either corrupt or made new, is revealed through the actions of every person. That is why the Christian who is justified with God, being transformed into the image of Christ, set apart to do righteous good works, and growing to glorify God is in conflict in sinning. They are no longer the person who enjoyed and valued sin, yet even though they are justified and being changed and made holy, they still sin. There was no conflict before, but now there is. At the very center of who they are, their heart, they are new! The Christian is to live from the work that has been done and is being done in their heart. They are to live, to walk, in their new way of life!

Hope Only in Christ (v. 11)

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

The life the Christian once lived was rooted in their darkness and depravity. There was great pride in their identity that came from their existence. They pride themselves on their culture and

their nationality. The false teachers are placing hope in their fleshly identity and their capacity to make themselves good. The Colossian saints are being deceived to place their hope in their circumstances and situation. This produces hopelessness. If I do not belong to the right group, if I am not born into the right people group, if I do not have the right rituals performed upon me, if I am not free then I am doomed and have no hope. Paul destroys all the human teaching that is rooted in ignorance and humanism (people's efforts to make themselves better or right). There is no hope in human effort and yet there is no hopelessness in this either. Christ is the hope of humanity! This last phrase reinforces the high Christological hymn in chapter one verses fifteen through twenty. Paul condenses the truth of the hymn into this shortened phrase. Jesus Christ is first over all!

God's People Flourish in Killing Sin – Aggressive Saints (SLIDE 7)

Killing Sin (Old Life) (SLIDE 8)

Sin

Values

Identity

Being Restored in the New Life (SLIDE 9)

Growing Daily to Become Christlike

Jesus Christ is your Model for Life

Be Killing Sin (SLIDE 10)

Killing Sin¹ - The Sanctified Person's Actions

Sinning Looks Like You Aren't Known by or Don't Know Christ

Sin Controls You, You Disregard God's Response to Sin

Accept That You Are Guilty Yet Grieving

You gave into temptation

Deeply Desire Liberation

Spiritually Aware of Temptation and Be Proactive

¹ Adapted from a commentary on John Owen's work "The Mortification of Sin"
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/john-owen-killing-sin/>

Know the state in which you are tempted (spiritual, emotional, geographical)

Look Ahead and Safeguard Yourself

Petition and Pursue

Fill Each Day with Requests for God's Help and Work

Grow in Your Awareness of and Fellowship with God

- God's Word, Prayer, Praise, Godly Fellowship, Care, Serving

Read

1 Peter 2:24-25

English Standard Version

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. **25** For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)