

Colossians 3:5-17

Last week we learned that rules and regulations have no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. So what do we do? As verses 1-4 of chapter 3 say, we focus on things above!

1. It is not about external do's and don'ts.
2. It is about an internal love for and passion for Jesus Christ.

When our people cast fear to the wind and spend themselves and risk their lives and fortune in the cause of God's truth and in love for other people, then God is revealed for who He really is: infinitely valuable and satisfying—so much so that His people don't need the fleeting pleasures of sin in order to be content.
John Piper

When a true love and appreciation for Christ are kindled, the fleeting pleasures of sin retreat, but how will that practically stop the indulgence of the flesh? He tells us. Therefore....

READ/PRAY

There are 3 main points of action that Paul prescribes in this text.

I. Put Off v5-9

Therefore consider (literally reckon) the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

1. Just like there is a declared righteousness, there is a kind of declared crucifixion or mortification.
 - a. Galatians 2:19-20 *For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*
 - b. There are only 2 types of people in the world. You either are dead in sin or dead to sin.
 - c. *Most people are half saved. You go to the cross, but you never get on the cross. You go and get your sins forgiven and feel happy and then go back and do the same lousy thing again the next day. What kind of salvation is that?* Leonard Ravenhill
2. Just like there is a practical righteousness, there is a kind of practical crucifixion or mortification.
 - a. Luke 9:23 *And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*
 - b. I die daily
 - c. Romans 8:13 *if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

Put to death. Put aside.

1. In other words, put off the old self. Put off the old man.

2. Roman form of punishment
3. Are you saved? I hope...not sure...etc.
 - a. Imagine struggling up a mountain with a 100 lb sack on his back.
 - b. About 3/4 of the way up someone takes the sack off your back.
 - c. He gets to the top and someone asks, hey have you lost your bag? And you say...I don't know...not sure?
 - d. You think someone would know when a 100 lb sack has been removed.

II. Put On v10-14

and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him-- 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

1. There is a regeneration that must occur.

- a. Put on the new self. This is a re-creation...a regeneration.

1. Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit*

2. Matthew 19:28 *And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

- b. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

2. There is a renewal that must occur.

- a. We are made a new creation instantly, but we must continually be renewed if we are to put on the new man.

- b. Romans 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Ephesians 4:22-24 *in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Notice that none of this is about external efforts, rules, and regulations. It is all about internal affections. These characteristics are matters of the heart.

III. Put In and Put Out v15-17

Trash in trash out...same principle here...different products.

1. Peace in. Thanksgiving out. v15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

2. The Word in. Teaching out. v16

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

- a. Where a love for Christ is, the Word of Christ will be spoken.
- b. Love for Christ in, love for Christ out. Football in...football out.
- c. If you talk about college football more than Christ do you really love Christ?...on Sunday morning!!

3. Jesus in. Jesus out. v17

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

- a. Dead Sea Syndrome
- b. We have all potentially overdosed.
- c. What is your outlet?

Conclusion:

All of this requires action.

1. It requires a putting off.
 - a. Are you half saved?
 - b. Has your burden been removed?
 - c. Let's be real this morning. Let's be honest.
2. It requires a putting on.
 - a. Have you been playing religion or have you truly been regenerated...recreated...a new creation?
 - b. Are you being renewed and is it evident by your heart?
3. Are you putting in trash or the treasures of the peace of Christ, the Word of Christ and the work of the Lord Jesus?

All of this requires action...not just sitting and listening to a sermon. I am convinced, He is waiting on someone to act! He is moving someone to act. Is it you?