

COLOSSIANS

a life worth living

The Great Put Off and Put On

Expanded Listening Guide—Colossians 3:3-11
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Getting Rid of our Outdated Clothes and Putting on The New

Introduction: In our last study in Colossians 3:1-2, we were reminded it's essential as followers of Jesus that we maintain a new perspective every day.

Colossians 3:1-2. We learned the first perspective we're to maintain is to:

REVIEW

I. SET OUR **HEARTS AND OUR MINDS.**

- A. In other words, both our affections and thoughts are involved in our focus/growth.
- B. **Affections** (what we love) + **thoughts** (what we think about) = **actions** (what we REALLY DO).
- C. Paul describes the right focus in one word: **ABOVE**. Who's there? Where exactly?
- D. To be specific, we gave **SEVEN WAYS** to help us set our hearts and minds on Christ.
The Summary and the seventh is: We're to be looking up, but we're also to be looking down. Eph. 2:6—*“And God raised us up with Christ and SEATED US WITH HIM in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...”*
 - **So where is Jesus?** (He's in the heavenly realms at the right hand of the Father.)
 - **Where are we?** (We're seated with Him! Colossians 3:1-2; Ephesians 2:6)

We either see things below in light of things above, or we allow things below to block our vision of things above. We have an above and below focus. Result: Eventually we'll reflect our Lord; we'll do what He did!

Colossians 3:3-7. Here's a second perspective authentic believers pay attention to. WE:

- #### II. SEE OURSELVES AS **DEAD AND ALIVE** (it's not dead OR alive, but...) See Rom. 6:11.
- We need to understand two important truths:
- Jesus not only died for us (**SUBSTITUTION/SALVATION**).
 - We also died with Him/alive in Him. Therefore, **IDENTIFICATION/SANCTIFICATION**.
 - **Summary:** Growth comes from identifying with Christ's death, resurrection, seating!

Notice: *“For YOU died...”*—v. 3; but then Paul says, *“Put to death, therefore...”*—v. 5.

- #### A. Why do I have to put to death that which is already dead?
- (Example: flyswatter)
We died to the old life, but we still remember the old life and have an enemy who seeks to pull us back, to resurrect that old life. (Solution?) The answer is not trying harder, it's trusting Jesus more! It's living out who we are, by faith, in His strength.

B. SPECIFICALLY, what died? v. 5. All of these sins are “Sins of **GETTING.**”

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| 1. Sexual immorality (Why?) | 4. Evil desires (destructive) |
| 2. Impurity (incites/accompanies) | 5. Greed is really IDOLATRY |
| 3. Lust (to fix desire upon) | Reward: verse 4 |

Summary: Believers make judgments about our actions (no relativism/pluralism).

- #### C. Why should we put these attitudes to death?
- (Review vv. 3-4 again!) In addition:
1. **First, wrath is coming.** v. 6—*“Because of **these**, the wrath of God is coming.”*

- a. **Wrath** of God is a phrase some use to describe an angry and vindictive God.
 - b. **Wrath** means God takes sin **PERSONALLY**. (Sin hurts His heart and ours.)
 - c. **Wrath** also means **LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES**. (See Romans 1:18-32.)
2. **Second, past sins no longer FIT who we really are.** v. 7—“*You used to walk...*”
 - a. We’re not walking in the ways we used to walk anymore. (See 1 Cor. 6:9-11.)
 - b. There are two ways we can deal with sin:
 - If sin is knocking at the door, we don’t let it in the door of our life—Gen. 4:7.
 - If sin is already in our life, we throw it out the door of our life. What’s easier?

Colossians 3:8-10. The third perspective and action authentic believers have then, is to:

III. TAKE OFF THE **OLD** AND PUT ON THE **NEW**.

A. **Paul gives a specific list of RELATIONAL SINS.** How are we doing on this list?

Quote: G. Campbell Morgan calls these “*the sins in good standing.*”

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| • Anger | • Slander |
| • Rage | • Filthy language |
| • Malice | • Lying |

How do we get these things (sins) out of our life (anger, rage, etc.)?

B. **Paul tells us if we want sin out of our life it’s a TWO STEP process...PUT OFF the old and PUT ON the new.** (Do you know the “Two Step” dance?)

1. **Take off the old.** v. 9— “*Do not lie to each other, since you have **TAKEN OFF** the old self with its practices...*”
 - How do you and I know if we’re putting off the old?
 - **The test is:** Are we **saying NO to evil practices in a new way?** (Is it true?)
2. **Put on the new.** v. 10—“*...**PUT ON** the new self which is being renewed in the knowledge of the image of its creator.*”
 - **The test is:** Are we **saying YES to Jesus in a new way?** Are we saying YES to NEW clothes? What are our thoughts about our Creator/Lord?
 - **The evidence** of life is more than what we **PUT OFF**; it’s also what we **PUT ON**.
 - **The sequence:** We put off before we put on—Eph. 4:22-5:6 (dirty/clean clothes).

Colossians 3:11. Then finally, Paul writes something that doesn’t seem to fit the passage.

C. “*For here there is no Greek or Jew, no circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, **but Christ is all and in all.***”

1. So why is this verse here? (Context is very important. What precedes this verse?)
2. So why are these names listed here?
 - a. Paul is saying that when it comes to overcoming sin, we can’t look to our background and say, “I’m acting this way because of the way I was brought up, because of my nationality, or whatever; that’s just the way I am.”
 - b. The passage reminds us our background changed the minute we came to know Christ. Now we’re in His family, a new family. Christ is all and in all.
Quote - Augustine: “Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all.”

Conclusion: IF we’re followers of Jesus, we need to begin seeing ourselves in a NEW WAY because of what He has done in our life. Are we setting our minds/hearts above, taking off the old life and putting on Christ?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Let's go back to the outline and ask some of the questions presented in this outline:

- A. What am I hearing at the door of my life?** See Genesis 4:7—*“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”*
- What sin wants in?
 - What sins need to be tossed out?
- B. From this lesson, what motivates me to stop trying harder and start trusting God more?**
- C. Which of the sins in verses 5-9 do I struggle with the most?**
- How will I put these sins off?
 - What will I put on instead? (It's the 2 step!)
- D. Is taking off and putting on a one-time action process? Why is it important to not only say NO to sin, but also find reasons to say YES to new spiritual clothes?** What might these clothes be? Make a list from Eph. 4-5:21; Col. 3:5-17. (Save for next week!)