

# Eliminating Idols In Your Life

Colossians 3:1-10

**The Big Idea:** “We eliminate idols not merely by removing sinful behaviors, but by replacing misplaced worship with a greater pursuit of Jesus Christ.”

## **SEEK AND SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE**

- “So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3:1-2)
- **You cannot successfully remove an idol without replacing it with greater affection for Christ.**

### **HOW DO WE SEEK THINGS ABOVE?**

#### **1. We Seek Things Above By Pursuing Christ Through His Word**

- “I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11)
- **The more Scripture fills our minds, the less room idols have to thrive.**

#### **2. We Seek Things Above By Pursuing Christ Through Prayer**

- “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...” (Matthew 6:33)
- **Prayer reminds us that God is our source, our provider, our security, and our satisfaction.**

#### **3. We Seek Things Above By Pursuing Christ Through Worship**

- “I have asked one thing from the Lord; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the LORD seeking him in his temple.” (Psalm 27: 4)
- **Worship redirects our attention from earthly treasures to heavenly treasure!**
- **Before you can put idols to death, you must enthrone Christ in your heart.**

## **PUT TO DEATH FLESHLY DESIRES AND PURSUITS**

- “Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.” (Colossians 3:5)
- “Covetousness is fundamentally a worship issue because it seeks fulfillment in created things rather than in Christ.” – R. Scott Pace

### **HOW DO WE PUT SIN TO DEATH?**

#### **1. We Put Sin to Death by Starving the Flesh**

- “Make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires.” (Romans 13:14)
- **Many believers pray for victory while continuing to feed the very thing they want God to remove.**
- **You cannot feed the flesh all week and expect spiritual victory on Sunday.**

#### **2. We Put Sin to Death by Walking in the Spirit**

- “Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)
- **The more we yield to the Holy Spirit the less influence idols have in our lives.**

#### **3. We Put Sin to Death by Renewing the Mind**

- “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Romans 12:2)

## **PUT AWAY YOUR OLD LIFESTYLE**

- “But now, put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices.” (Colossians 3:8-9)
- **Many people want new life in Christ while holding onto old patterns.**

### **HOW DO WE PUT AWAY THE OLD LIFESTYLE?**

#### **1. We Put Away the Old Lifestyle Through Repentance**

- “Repent, therefore, and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out.” (Acts 3:19)

#### **2. We Put Away the Old Lifestyle Through Confession**

- *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9)

### **3. We Put Away the Old Lifestyle Through Accountability**

- *“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.”* (James 5:16)

### **4. We Put the Old Lifestyle Away Through Radical Obedience**

- *“If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out...”* (Matthew 5:29)
- **Anything that consistently competes with Christ must be dealt with decisively!**
- **Whatever we refuse to remove will eventually influence us.**

## **PUT ON THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST**

- *“And have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator.”* (Colossians 3:10)
- **If we only focus on what we remove, we will eventually return to old patterns.**
- *“When an unclean spirit comes out of a person, it roams through waterless places looking for rest, and not finding rest, it says, ‘I’ll go back to my house that I came from.’ 25 Returning, it finds the house swept and put in order. 26 Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and settle down there. As a result, that person’s last condition is worse than the first.”* (Luke 11:24-26)

## **HOW DO WE PUT ON THE NEW LIFE?**

### **1. We Put on the New Life by Embracing Our New Identity**

- *“You have been raised with Christ.”*

### **2. We Put on the New Life by Daily Renewal**

- *“You are being renewed.”*

### **3. We Put on the New Life by Replacing Idols with Worship**

- *“Who do I have in heaven but you? And I desire nothing on earth but you.”* (Psalm 73:25)

### **4. We Put on the New Life by Abiding in Christ**

- *“Remain in me, and I in you.”* (John 15:4)

## **CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

### **Observation:**

- According to Colossians 3:1-2, what two commands does Paul give believers regarding their focus and priorities?
- In verse 5, what specific attitudes and behaviors does Paul command believers to “put to death”? Which one does he specifically identify as idolatry?
- In verses 8-9, what old behaviors does Paul tell believers to “put away” or remove from their lives?
- According to verse 10, what has the believer “put on,” and what ongoing process is taking place in the life of a follower of Christ?

### **Understanding**

- What are some of the most common idols people struggle with in our culture today? Which seem most tempting in your current season of life?
- Why do you think pursuing Christ must come before trying to eliminate idols? Have you ever experienced the difference between behavior modification and heart transformation?
- What do your thoughts, conversations, and priorities reveal about what is most important to you right now?
- The sermon identified several lies that fuel idolatry: 1) Money equals security, 2) Approval equals worth, 3) Success equals significance. Which of these lies, or another similar lie, do you find yourself most tempted to believe? How does the gospel challenge that lie?
- Why do confession and accountability often feel uncomfortable? How can Christian community help us remove idols that are difficult to overcome on our own?
- Is there an area of compromise, temptation, or unhealthy attachment that God may be calling you to address with decisive action? What would that action look like?

### **Loving Outward:**

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?