

Colossians 3:1-11

The New You

Image Church // Changes Week 2

Introduction

Well, good morning Image Family, and friends that are joining in this morning!

Hey, really quick here's what I want to ask you to do before we get started, I want you to **take out your phone** and take **a picture or video** of you watching and post it and tag Image Church.

- *Long as you're wearing something appropriate...*

And then we'll share it through our feed...

- *And if you don't follow us on social media, you need to go ahead and do that now!*

We can't gather in person, but it doesn't mean that we're not gathering... Collectively right now we're all doing the same thing this morning, and we want to glimpse of that as best we can so that we can through the technology available to us!

Also, feel free during the sermon to comment in the comments section below! We want to do all we can to facilitate the opportunity to participate together, pushing against the spectating as much as we can!

Ok we're in **week 2** of our series called **Changes**... If you have your Bibles go ahead and turn to the book of **Colossians**...

Context

Colossians was written by Paul to the church in Colossae...

And this is the flow of the letter:

- This is who Jesus is, this is what He's done... The supremacy of Christ, the work of Christ...
- Then here in **Chapter 3** Paul transitions to how as Christians we should live... Or you could say the **changes** that need to happen in the lives of Christians??

This is typically the flow of Paul's letters... Here's who Christ is, here's what he's done, now here's how you should live...

- What you see is that Christian behavior always follows being a Christian...
 - o We hit on this a little bit last week, but this is so important because what you need to see is that Paul's not after behavior modification as the means of salvation...
 - o He's saying behavior's change as a result of your salvation!
 - Don't miss that...

Colossians 3:1-11

3 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. **3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Let me stop right here for just a second – There is a lot of talk in the **NT** about this idea of dying with Christ and being raised with Christ, but what exactly does it mean?

Baptism as an example: flesh out...

- Buried with Christ in the likeness of His death and raised to walk in the newness of life...

When you trust in the finished work of Jesus, you're identifying with His perfect life in your place, His death in your place, and His resurrection that gives you new life...

And what Paul's about to show us is that if we're a Christian here's the changes that need to happen in our life...

5 Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these, God's wrath is coming upon the disobedient, **7** and you once walked in these things when you were living in them. **8** But now, put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator. **11** In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

Here's the thing that we have to understand right out of the gate, based on this list every one of us are guilty...

Some of y'all are guilty of these things this morning!!

- Joke about getting to the den and getting the TV on...

We're hardwired to live out our flesh... Listen to how **DA Carson** says it in **volume 2** of **For the Love of God**: *People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer and obedience to Scripture, faith and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith; we cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.*

Two things here, that we need to see from this text:

- **One**: is Christianity isn't static- it is a forward progress...
- **Two**: Forward progress in the Christian life doesn't happen on accident... **Nobody accidentally becomes Godly...**

So, what does it look like to live out **Colossians 3:1-11** here??

The way I want to navigate this is by holding up **3 approaches** that people tend to take when it comes to Christianity that ultimately impact our ability to live out what we just read, let me walk through them with you...

1. The Nominal Christian approach

Define: Christian in name only, but doesn't live out the call of Christianity... This person based on what the Bible teaches would not be a Christian...

Typically, this is how this looks:

- Grew up in a Christian home, went to church, knows about Jesus and what He did...
- Possibly prayed a prayer at some point asking Jesus into their heart... But there's no evidence of surrender, there's no putting to death of the earthly nature...

Sin's... Feel's guilty... Knows it's wrong... Keeps doing it...

- Knows there needs to be a change, tells people they want to change, but it doesn't happen...
 - **Example**: Garrett in College- stop drinking and sleeping around...
 - Lasted 5 days...

There's no stopping power in this approach... Because it's all based on **affiliation** and not the person of Christ...

Maybe a few behavior modifications in this approach:

- Goes to church

- Maybe in a bible study
- Prays occasionally
- Does some good things from time to time and tries to point them back to God...

But the most part this approach is ***Happily doing the very things that Jesus died for...***

- Things this text holds up: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language, lying...

And yet, walks around telling everyone they're a Christian because they prayed a prayer one time...

There's no putting to death... There's a miss when it comes to **verse 6** Because of these, (the sins listed above) God's wrath is coming upon the disobedient **7** and you **once walked in these things** when you were living in them.

- Notice the **transition** that should take place as one who's been raised with Christ...
- For the nominal there's no transition, from how they were living to how they are living now in light of Christ...
 - There's lip service but no life surrender...

That doesn't mean that Christians don't fall into those things... What I am saying your attitude toward those things are different as a Christian...

Here's the major disconnect when it comes to the nominal approach...

Repentance: repentance isn't feeling bad for your sin... it's not even knowing what you did is wrong... **Romans 1-** we all are borne with the knowledge of right and wrong... Repentance is an about face... Turning, 180, from your sin to the hope of the gospel that Christ died to pay for that sin, but also to free you from that sin...

Nominal Christians are still slave to sin, which is why they continue to habitually practice it... It's why there's not spiritual growth, it's why there's no real commitment to biblical practices...

There is a lack of awareness of the holiness of God and the wrath that follows for those who are not followers of Christ...

There's an epidemic of this in our culture today... Where people pray a one-time prayer, they claim God, say they understand the work of Jesus and then they live life exactly how they want to live it...

And there's no transformation, there's not sacrifice, there's no fighting to put to death sin...

The passage uses the words **greed** and **idolatry**...

There has to be an awakening here... That's not what the Bible teaches... It's not ok to be in that place...

And for those of you that are Christians we have to stop but slapping the nominals and saying you'll get'em next time...

We need to be waving a red flag saying- you're missing it...

Jesus' sacrifice should you receive it demands a sacrifice... A reorientation where you get off the throne of your life...

Let's look at the second approach...

2. The religious approach

The religious approach looks like this... I want to control my sin, it to death...you want to train it but not kill it...

The motivation is the applause of men and not the glory of God... ¹

And here's what happens when you don't put to death your sin but instead try and cover it up, or hide it making it your pet... Here's how it shows back up...

¹ Matt Chandler, *Grace-Driven effort*.

When you get tired, frustrated, angry, insecure, let down, overwhelmed... That sin comes to life in you!

Instead of looking for comfort in the God of the universe, you turn to your pet sin that you didn't kill you just covered up and mastered it enough to look good on the outside...

When you try to train your sin it will always turn on you...

- **Example:** When Animals attack...

Another way you can identify your pet sin is by asking the question, what sin did you used to struggle with that you think you have beat?

- Chances are whatever that sin is, is a sleeping giant that if you're not careful will stand up one day out of no where...

Here's some other ways the religious approach looks:

You care more about the external sins than the internal ones...

- Minimize the internal sins... Feel like your doing good...

Payback mentality is another way this look... I sinned, not I have to make up for it...

If I do the things that a Christian should do, God's happy with me...

- Listen doing religious things doesn't make me a Christian any more than sticking my head in the oven makes me a biscuit!!

Let's look at the 3rd approach...

3. The Biblical approach

Verse 3 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.

Verse 5... put to death what belongs to your earthly nature

Verse 9... you have put off the old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator.

How does this look??

Mean we will be perfect no...

It means that we have our eyes fixated on Jesus... And we get violent with our sin...

- Not violent in our sin, but violent against our sin...
- The text says put to death.. literally murder...

How?

And when we fall we- watch this- the great distinguisher here we **repent...**

Repentance: I have sinned against a perfect and holy God...

- David: Against you and you only have I sinned...
- And yet in my sin God has been faithful to send Jesus to make right my wrong and pay the price that I owe...

Here's how you know you're in the right lane...

- When you sin the conviction that you feel should drive you toward God as you acknowledge your sin and set your heart on the hope of the gospel...
- If it drives you away from God that's legalism, that's leaning into the religious approach...
- The biblical approach is that: **Your kindness Lord leads me to repentance (Romans 2:4)**

Guilt is a side effect of the religious and nominal approach... It's not part of the biblical approach...

² Ibid.

Murdering sin happens when we walk in repentance...

- ***Repentance isn't license to do what you want, it's power that enables you to walk in the new life Christ has given you...***

*****VAMP*****

Example:

- The Biblical approach shows us that we're always in pursuit of Jesus...
 - Like this if I was headed toward that side of your house right now... A lot of ways I could get there...

And here's the other thing you have to understand, you're not in this alone...

- Jesus has given you the **church** to help wage war on your sin...
- His Word
- Prayer
- Spirit inside of you

You help viewing your heart!

The better you can see your heart the more you able to put to death sin by applying the gospel to those place of your life...

Final application here: you come up against one of these sins in your life like how do you murder it?!?!?

- Jesus has to become greater in that moment...
 - Personal example: selfishness, patience...
 - Use gospel to frame this out...

Listen change takes time... Christianity is a continual process of learning how to apply the gospel to your life...

You were not meant to do this along... their church is there to walk with you...

- How can we help??

Conclusion

Appeal to the ***nominal***

Appeal to the ***religious***

Gospel Appeal...

Pray