

WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK
Community Church



MARCH 1, 2026

**PUTTING SIN TO DEATH – FOLLOWING JESUS IN OUR
RELATIONSHIPS
COLOSSIANS 3:1–11**

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:
FOLLOW – OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS

**PUTTING SIN TO DEATH – FOLLOWING JESUS IN OUR
RELATIONSHIPS
COLOSSIANS 3:1–11**

Hidden with Christ: Dead to Sin, Raised to Life, Destined for Glory

What Must Be Put to Death

Renewed in the Image of Jesus

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Colossians 3:1-17.

**DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL
BIBLE READING**

MARCH 1: NUMBERS 14-15 & PSALM 90

MARCH 2: NUMBERS 16-17

MARCH 3: NUMBERS 18-20

MARCH 4: NUMBERS 21-22

MARCH 5: NUMBERS 23-25

MARCH 6: NUMBERS 26-27

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership Class continues today in the Prayer Room during both services. If you are interested in more information, please contact Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org).

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CLASS

Our New Testament Theology Class continues tonight at 6:00 PM in the Prayer Room. Please join us as we continue our study in the Apocalypse of John.

BETWEEN TWO TREES BOOK STUDY

Our Between Two Trees study will meet Sunday, March 8th. We will discuss *Everything is Never Enough: Ecclesiastes' Surprising Path to Resilient Happiness* by Bobby Jamieson. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org).

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

A new Young Adult group is starting for adults 18-30 years old! Our first gathering will be on Sunday, March 8, after second service in the Prayer Room. Moving forward, we will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month for lunch, fellowship, games, and encouragement in our faith. Other gatherings and outings will be planned for various times throughout the year. Join us as we gather and build friendships with other young people in a fun and laid-back environment!

RUMMAGE SALE

Save the date for MomCo's Semi-Annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 18. More details to come!

ROAD TO CALVARY

Save the date for Road to Calvary 2026 on Wednesday, April 1!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date! We are excited to share that we will be hosting VBS on July 20-24. We will be journeying to *Emerald Crossing: An Irish Adventure through Psalm 23*. Registration will open this spring for both children and volunteers.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

2ND SERVICE

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37-40

He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments."

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

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FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sermon Series: Follow – Our Journey with Jesus

Sermon for Sunday, March 1, 2026

Putting Sin to Death - Following Jesus in Our Relationships

Colossians 3:1-11

SCRIPTURE READING:

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”

(Romans 8:1-6, ESV)

Hidden with Christ: Dead to Sin, Raised to Life, Destined for Glory

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4, ESV)

First, we need to recognize the truth that if we are in Christ, our old self is dead. Jesus has killed it, and He has raised us from spiritual death to new life in Him. We have a new nature. It’s not a perfect nature yet, but it will be when we see Jesus. Now, the Holy Spirit is with us and in us, teaching, leading, guiding, comforting, and changing us moment by moment. The Holy Spirit does the heavy lifting. He does the impossible: He changes our thinking, feelings, desires, and actions. However, we have a *very* important responsibility too – we are commanded to intentionally *join* the Holy Spirit in this wonderful transformation of ourselves (the Bible calls this sanctification) by using all the means of growth that God has given us (the Word, prayer, worship, fellowship, and service).

See that it says, “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” What does this mean? What are the things that we ought to set our minds on?

Do you remember from a previous sermon on our identity in Christ that we said, “To be ‘with Christ,’ or ‘in Christ,’ means that believers are united to Jesus in such a way that what belongs to Him belongs to us, and what is true of Christ becomes true of us, because we are His.”

Here’s what we ought to “set our minds on” - Listen to who we are because we have been “raised with Christ!”

Because Christ is righteous, IN HIM we are counted righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9)

Because Christ is holy, IN HIM we are “holy ones” – “saints” (1 Corinthians 1:2; Hebrews 2:11)

Because Christ is the Son, IN HIM we are sons and daughters of God (Galatians 4:4–7; Romans 8:15–17)

Because Christ is the Beloved, IN HIM we are accepted and beloved (Ephesians 1:6; Colossians 3:12)

Because Christ is King, IN HIM we are citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20; Colossians 1:13)

Because Christ is the Heir, IN HIM we are heirs of God (Romans 8:17; Ephesians 1:11–14)

Because Christ is glorified, IN HIM, we shall be glorified (Romans 8:17, Philippians 3:20-21)

Because Christ lives forever, IN HIM we have new and everlasting life (Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:4)

In Christ we are sons and daughters, in Christ we are righteous, in Christ we are holy, in Christ we are beloved, in Christ we are citizens, in Christ we are heirs, in Christ we are alive forevermore. Do you believe this?

What Must Be Put to Death

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices” (Colossians 3:5–9, ESV)

How do we put sin to death?

We acknowledge the truth that our old nature is dead. I no longer have to obey sin. I am no longer a slave to sin. I am a new creation. I am who Jesus made me to be through his death and resurrection.

We fight sin. We say no. And when we say no, it is going to feel like death. There are going to be awful things that we desire, and when we deny those desires, it is not going to be pleasant. It will feel (in the moment) like death. But this is the path of life. We don’t say “no” in our own strength. We reject sin by setting our minds on things above, acknowledging and resting in the truth that we no longer have to obey sin. We are no longer slaves to sin. We are new creations. We are who Jesus made us to be through his death and resurrection. As we do this, the Holy Spirit, who is with us and in us will help us to turn away from sin.

We read the Word of God that addresses our sin. We look to the promises of God, which offer us better things than sin. Sin lies. It wants to convince you that it is reality. It makes promises it can’t keep. It can’t satisfy. But Jesus says, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” (John 7:37–38, ESV).

We look at the warnings of God and we remember that we ignore them to our peril. “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:6, ESV)

What are we to put to death?

Paul lists these first: “Sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness.” Sounds like what’s on TV tonight! These are the sins of the flesh and the world. Paul says, “On account of these the wrath of God is coming.” That is frightening! Paul also says that we “once walked in them.” So we are not strangers to these sins! These sins used to “live” with us, with a “life” that was really death.

But here’s good news: Because of Jesus, our old sinful nature is dead. It has been crucified. I no longer have to obey sin. I am no longer a slave to sin. I am a new creation. I am who Jesus made me to be through his death and victorious resurrection.

Next, Paul lists: “anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another...”

Churches are *amazingly* resilient to outside attack! Persecution may scatter a church, but then it will only spread and grow! Do you want to take down a church? You have to do it *from the inside!* Here’s how: Get mad! Don’t pray! Get mad! Be angry at your brothers and sisters and the ministries of this church. Think badly about them and then desire their failure (that’s malice). Next, be a gossip (that’s slander). Talk badly about your brothers and sisters here (the ones that Christ loves and died for) to anyone who will listen. Run your mouth about them and about everything else in the church that bugs you. But *don’t pray!* Don’t come to anyone directly! Gossip! THAT’S how you take down a church!

Anger, wrath, malice, slander, gossip, obscene talk, and lying not only harm individuals but also *destroy* the unity of a church. Anger builds up until relationships become strained and guarded. Wrath causes wounds that can take years to heal. Malice quietly hopes for others’ failure. Slander and gossip erode trust, as attacks, whether overt or subtle, harsh or masked by “concern,” spread suspicion throughout the community. Obscene or degrading speech lowers the body’s overall tone and makes holiness seem distant. When lying enters the church, trust begins to break down. A church cannot flourish without trust.

So, what often starts as private irritation or careless words can develop into a forest fire. That’s why God commands us to *kill* these behaviors, because if they persist, they will gradually choke the life out of God’s people.

But here’s good news: Because of Jesus, our old sinful nature is dead. It has been crucified. I no longer have to obey sin. I am no longer a slave to sin. I am a new creation. I am who Jesus made me to be through his death and victorious resurrection.

This starts in our homes! We *can*, by God’s grace, guard our speech with our spouses, our children, and our friends. Then, we will be on the way to putting these things to death and being self-controlled, full of life and peace in the Holy Spirit.

Question: Sexual immorality, anger, gossip, and lying can rule us. The Bible says the problem is deeper than mere behavior; it is in our very nature. The “old self” cannot reform itself. It must *die*. And only Jesus can crucify the old self and raise us to new life. The good news of the Gospel of Jesus is not “try harder.” The good news is that Christ died for these sins and rose so that you can, too. Will you come to Him?

Renewed in the Image of Jesus

“Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”
(Colossians 3:9–11, ESV)

Jesus doesn't rehabilitate our old self; He kills it and brings us back to life as new creations. And everyone needs Jesus. And anyone who comes to Jesus will be saved and made new!

Question: Do you know and love Jesus? Then, you have died with Christ. You have been raised with Christ. You are not a slave to anger, gossip, resentment, or deceit. So why live like you are? Where is the Holy Spirit putting His finger on you right now? What *must die* in you this week?

What do you do when the sins listed here have been committed against you? Those things hurt deeply. These Scriptures don't ignore those wounds, but they do remind us: our lives are hidden with Christ in God. The words of others do not define you or your identity. Jesus sees. Jesus knows. Entrust your heart and your hurts to Him and refuse to let bitterness take root, because Jesus will one day appear in glory, and you with Him!



Putting Sin to Death - Following Jesus in Our Relationships

1. What did you think of the sermon "Putting Sin to Death - Following Jesus in Our Relationships"?

2. Paul says your life is hidden with Christ in God. You have died, and you have been raised with Him. Do you truly believe that your old self is dead and that you are no longer a slave to sin? Which of your identities in Christ stood out most to you? Why?

3. Paul commands believers to "put to death" what is earthly in them. Which sins mentioned are you most tempted toward? How have these sins affected your family, friendships, and personal relationships?

4. The gospel is not "try harder," but "Christ died and rose so you can walk in new life." Are you fighting sin on your own, or relying on the Holy Spirit? Do you believe that because of Jesus, you no longer have to obey that sin?

5. You have put off the old self and put on the new self, being renewed in the image of Jesus. Is there someone you need to forgive or stop speaking negatively about? Is there bitterness you must entrust to Christ? What does that look like?

