



**Series:** Life With Jesus – Week 6

**Sermon Title:** Putting Off the Old, Embracing the New

**Date:** 10/8/2023

## Colossians 3:1-14

Paul addresses sin in the life of a follower of Jesus and gives inspired instruction on how to defeat sin in our lives.

### Big Idea: **SEEK TO PUT SIN TO DEATH IN YOUR LIFE**

3 strategies that will help us grow in the Lord and put sin to death in your life.

#### 1. **MAKE SURE YOU ARE HIDDEN IN CHRIST**

Paul affirmed that his audience was Christians (**Colossians 3:1a**). When an unbeliever trusts Christ, a change occurs – the spirit is made alive, and there are new desires, values, and a new mission to glorify Christ. Your spirit is regenerated – having a new life, and Paul says that **your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1**

In Christ, you have a new life, a living hope, a blessed assurance, and a heavenly perspective, and although you are not yet glorified, your salvation is secure and safe in Christ until you are glorified. It's like a seed buried and kept safe until it grows and what is inside is fully revealed.

#### 2. **PUT OFF THE SINS OF THE OLD LIFE (3:5–11).**

##### Colossians 3:5-11

Paul starts by telling the Colossian believers to put to death their sinful desires. For Christians, being victorious over sin starts with identifying who you are. Paul stresses how important it is to be familiar with our new identity in Christ. Here are some practical steps to kill sin.

**1. Learn to call sin what it really is.** Call it “sexual immorality,” not “I’m struggling with my thought life.” Call sin what it is without softening it.

**2. See sin for what it really is.** It is rebellion against God.

**3. Redirect your thinking whenever sin pops its head up.** When an impure thought pops into your head, kill it immediately. Have some key verses memorized, like *Romans 6:11*

### **3. PUT ON THE VIRTUES OF THE NEW LIFE.**

**Colossians 3:12-14**

Paul gives the Colossians an important principle. One of the principles of Christian growth is called the “put off and put on” principle. Behind the principle lies the fact that there are always sinful attitudes and actions we need to put off, and there are always positive traits of righteousness we need to put on. Paul talks about it here in Colossians, and he also writes about this in **Ephesians 4:22-24.**

In Colossians 3:5 and 8, Paul lists 5 ways of life for Christians to avoid. In this passage, He lists 5 that they are to follow. The idea is to put away anything that opposes God and put in its place qualities that are honoring to Him. Becoming like Jesus is a continual process of fighting against the elements that are trying to corrode you.

In reality, many Christians struggle with the same sin over and over again. And they get to the point where they get discouraged and think it is never going to change. They resolve that the particular sin is just part of who they are. In that moment, it is essential that you know that you are hidden in Christ because of your choice to die to your old self and be raised in Christ. In that moment, you need to press on again and again to put off the sin in your life. Jesus did the work and was victorious over sin, and that same God lives in you. Fight to take what is already yours as a child of God. You are not the old sinful self who is a slave to sin. Put on the virtues of your new life! You are a new creation who has been given freedom in Jesus Christ. Never give up, and never stop, and you will be victorious – you will put to death the sin in your life! **Romans 6:11-14**

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Why is it important to seek Holiness? Why is it also a struggle?**
- **What is some biblical advice you would give to a Christian who is struggling with the same sin over and over?**
- **Have you ever used the put-off put-on principle?**
- **Why is putting on new virtues important and not just settling for casting off sin?**
- **What verses do you use to redirect your thoughts during times of temptation?**