

I have the opportunity to fill in for Jim this morning. He is at a family reunion. Before we get started, I would like to ask that you would remember the High School Camp happening this next week. Please be in prayer for Nathan Nall as he leads the camp and for Scott Vachon who will be doing the teaching. Also for all of the volunteers and students who will be there, for their safety and that God would accomplish eternal things.

So back when I first started filling in for Jim, Dan recommended that I choose a book of the Bible and work my way through it. So back in 2015 I started teaching through Colossians. Well the last time I taught in it was 3 years ago, in 2016. I have taught since then but have done various topics and series. Well, I figure it is time to jump back into Colossians. We had just gotten to one of the best parts of the book, Chapter 3.

### Col 3:5-10

- (5) **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:** sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- (6) On account of these the wrath of God is coming.
- (7) In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.
- (8) But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.
- (9) Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices
- (10) and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

This passage is direct and to the point. Verse 5 starts with the phrase put to death. In the Greek it literally says Kill what is earthly in us. Sin. We are commanded to Kill the sin in our lives. Yet In one sense our sin has already been killed.

### Rom 6:3-7

- (3) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus **were baptized into his death?**
- (4) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
- (5) For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
- (6) We know that **our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.**
- (7) For one who has died has been set free from sin.

When Jesus dies on the cross, He was able to kill sin. He paid the punishment for our sins. He freed us from sin. Yet Colossians 3:5 is still in the Bible. We are still called to Kill sin. We know there is no contradiction. Christ paid for my sins on the cross, and yet I am still here on this world with an old sin nature. I will be perfect one day and so will you, but right now... we have sin still in us.

By choice. We are no longer slaves. Christ freed us; our sin now is by choice.

This is a heavy passage that should convict us. We all have sin in our lives that needs to be killed. Before we can dive into what it means to kill sin, we need to understand the context. Throughout the letter Paul has been building a case that we need to understand before we can understand what it means to kill sin correctly.

So, let's back up to chapter 1 to get our context.

### Col 1:3-6

- (3) We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,  
 (4) **since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus** and of the love that you have for all the saints,

These are believers Paul has heard reports of their faith in Jesus.

- (5) **because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.** Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

This is going to be a theme throughout the book, our hope of heaven leading to action here on Earth. The Colossians have love for others because they have a hope in heaven. Understanding eternal things will change our present actions.

### Col 1:9-10

- (9) And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking **that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Notice what Paul prays for them. He wants them to understand what God's will for their life is. If Paul's whole focus was just getting the Colossians saved there would be no letter. They are saved and yet he has so much to say to them. As important as Salvation is, it is actually a very small part of the Christian life. There is so much more.

Paul wants them to understand God's will for them, and then He tells us what the outcome of understanding God's will is in verse 10.

- (10) so as to **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing to him: **bearing fruit** in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

When we understand God's will, we will be sanctified and bear eternal fruit. We will live a life that is honorable and worthy to God. **We can never earn our salvation, yet we can live like we have been saved.** There are a lot of believers who do not live like they have been saved.

In verses 13 thru 23 Paul starts marveling at who Jesus is and what he has done in our lives.

### Col 1:13-14

- (13) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

(14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

What took place the moment we are saved is incredible. Our entire future was changed. Our identity was changed. We went from darkness and being dead, to Jesus' Kingdom, to the light, to being alive. And yet as I keep saying there is so much more.

### Col 1:28

(28) Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, **that we may present everyone mature in Christ.**

Paul warned every one of their need for the gospel and the dire eternal consequences of not believing in Jesus. But it does not stop there, his goal was to help believers mature, grow up, and have a deepening walk with Christ. That was Paul's goal and his philosophy of ministry, and it should be ours.

### Col 1:29

(29) For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

There is incredible depth to this verse. It seems simple on its surface but encapsulated in it describes perfectly how the Christian life is supposed to function. We are going to come back to it at the end of the sermon. Because in Chapter 3 we are going to be encouraged to kill the sin that is in our lives. **Part of maturity, and growth is holiness, dealing with sin.**

There is an inherent tension in the Christian life between what God does for us and what is our responsibility. We know that we are saved entirely by His grace. That we did nothing and can never earn it. Yet we are called to believe. Scripture is full of this tension God's Will and our human responsibility.

It can be seen in how we grow as believers. This sermon of how to kill sin, and deal with ongoing sin in our lives puts this tension forefront and center.

One group would say we need to let go and let God. Another group would have 10 surefire steps that you can put in practice today to stop sinning. Neither would be right. There is a balance to be found.

Our main passage in chapter 3 is going to be very focused on dealing with sin in our lives. It is going to be very practical. This verse is the how. We will come back to it.

So Paul is encouraging believers to grow in their relationship with God. We are to marvel in our salvation and yet not stop there. Then in chapter 3 starts to get really practically.

**Chapters 1 and 2 are more the theology of why we need to grow and mature. Chapter 3 is the what. Here is what maturity looks like.**

### Col 3:1-4

(1) If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

- (2) **Set your minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth.
- (3) For you have 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.

The practical section starts with a command to focus on eternal things, to focus on Jesus. This is not our home. Remember we have been transferred into His Kingdom. Focus on Him.

### Php 3:18-20

- (18) For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- (19) Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, **with minds set on earthly things.**
- (20) **But our citizenship is in heaven**, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

People who have not believed in Jesus, are still earthy. There is nothing else for them to focus on. But we as believers are not of this earth anymore. Our true home is in heaven, We have been raised with Christ! Our focus, what we pursue what we think should not be earthly, it should be heavenly, it should be about our true home.

Before we move into verse 5 talking about how to deal with the sin in our lives, I want to make sure the order of these commands is clear. In verses 1 and 2 we are told were to be focused.

### Col 3:1-2

- (1) If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- (2) **Set your minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth.

We are to focus on Jesus. We are to live for Him and seek eternal things. Then once we are told where to focus, we are told to kill the sin in our lives. You can't start to live verse 5 and deal with sin until you have set your mind on Jesus.

This is a principal we can see in life. Imagine a really mean dog chewing on a bone. How do you get the bone away from the dog? If you try to grab it from the dog odds are that is not going to go well for you and he will probably cling to it harder. But give the dog a really juicy steak. Not only will he drop the bone, he will forget he was even chewing on it.

Now think about how we try to deal with sin. Often times the church tries to pull the bone away from the dog. We come to someone who is in sin and say you need to stop that now. The outcome is usually they cling to it more.

I think a great example of this is how the Church has dealt with sexual sin and teaching young people. Going to a Christian High School I can't tell you how many sermons and conferences I heard that just tried to tell us what not to do. They drilled into us sex outside marriage is sin.

Yet they never presented the steak. I never heard presented God's desire and plan for how amazing marriage is. That God was the creator of sex and wanted us to experience it in His pure and perfect way.

When we start to think on things above, we will start to have Biblical solutions to our sin. God never tells us just to stop doing something. He tells us to start looking to Him. **There is always a healthy Holy replacement to our sin.**

### Eph 4:25; 28+29

(25) Therefore, having **put away falsehood**, let each one of you **speak the truth** with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

It is not just stop lying, but speak truth. Now I have something actively to do. I can't be lying I am too busy truth telling.

(28) Let the **thief no longer steal**, but **rather let him labor**, doing honest work with his own hands, **so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.**

Stop stealing, Work for it. And it goes a step farther stop being a taker, but become a giver.

(29) Let **no corrupting talk come out of your mouths**, but only such as **is good for building up**, as fits the occasion, **that it may give grace to those who hear.**

Stop the coarse joking, the gossip, the bickering, the complaining, (all would qualify as corrupting talk). Replace this with building each other up. If I am focused on how to encouraging you and hoping our conversation imparts some type of grace, I won't be tearing you down.

This sounds simple and yet we know how deceptive our sin really is.

It is not to be taken lightly.

### Col 3:5

(5) **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you**: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

The Greek tense in this command suggests a decisive action, as if Paul said, "Mortify it! Do it now! Do it resolutely!" Do not toy with sin or tolerate it any longer.

It is worth making sure we all have a definition of sin.

### 1Pe 1:13-21

(14) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,

- (15) but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,  
 (16) since it is written, **“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”**

God is our standard. Sin is defined as anything that is against His nature, who He is. And scripture makes it clear the opposite of God is represented by the World.

### **Jn 2:15-17**

- (15) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.  
 (16) **For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.**  
 (17) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

The World and God are opposites to each other.

One category of sin that can often be overlooked is not just doing things that are contrary to God but not doing things He has commanded us to do.

### **Jas 4:17**

- (17) So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

We sin when we do not do the things God has specifically called us to do. For instance, Jim has been teaching on spiritual gifts, and how all believers are called to serve in the body of Christ. To not serve, to not use our spiritual gift is sin.

### **Col 3:5**

- (5) **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:** sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Notice in verse 5 where the sin is coming from. It is not from the outside. This verse is not saying that you are pure and need to keep things from infiltrating and corrupting you. Notice the earthly things are already inside of you. This leads to a huge principal in scripture. Sin comes from within.

James actually details the process that happens within a believer when we sin.

### **Jas 1:13-15**

- (13) Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.  
 (14) **But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.**

## Sin starts with temptation

### -Temptation is not sin

This point should be straight forward but I know there are a lot of people who carry guilt over being tempted about something. Remember Jesus was tempted but did not sin. Sin and temptation are two very different things. This passage actually describes the process of a temptation growing into sin.

## Temptation appeals to our own desires

-Sin is only appealing if there is an appetite for it

The language used here of being lured, it fishing language. What makes a fish bite the hook. His hunger. We are only tempted when there is a desire in our heart for the temptation. When I do not have a desire in me. The temptation is not enticing or alluring. It starts in our hearts. This is where the battle must take place. Kill the desire, the process stops right here.

Verse 15 continues of what happens when we give in on our desire.

(15) Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Temptation turns to sin when we indulge our desire and act on it (physically or mentally).

Verse 5 gives us a list of all sorts of sins, that can be earthly parts of us as believers.

## Col 3:5

(5) **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:** sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

“sexual immorality” is *porneia*, is anything outside of God’s biblical boundaries for sex.

“impurity” is *akatharsia*, “uncleanness in a moral sense,”

“passion” is *pathos*, “depraved passion.”

“evil desire” is *epithumia kake*, “evil, wicked cravings.”

“Covetousness” is *pleonexia*, “greedy desire to have more, avarice.”

Coveting and Greed is so deceptive for our day. Notice it is in this list with all these sexual sins, and evil desires. And yet this is a sin that is commonly accepted. The desire for just a little more. I don’t need the biggest or nicest \_\_\_\_\_ just \_\_\_\_\_.

## 1Ti 6:9

(9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

“Idolatry” is *eidolatreia*, “the worship of false gods,”

Notice in verse 6 how serious God takes these sins and all sin.

**Col 3:6**

(6) On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

Sin has to be dealt with. God is Holy He is unable to ignore sin. We like to ignore sin. But the cross should be our constant reminder that sin must incur God's wrath. For as loving and gracious of a God that we have, He is a just God who has wrath towards sin.

**Nah 1:2-3**

(2) The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; **the LORD is avenging and wrathful**; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.

(3) The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and **the LORD will by no means clear the guilty**. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Sin wasn't just forgiven, it was paid for by the cross. The wrath was satisfied.

**Rom 5:8-9**

(8) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, **Christ died for us**.

(9) Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, **much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God**.

This is the great news of the gospel we are not in our sins anymore.

**Col 3:7-8**

(7) **In these you too once walked**, when you were living in them.

(8) **But now you must put them all away**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

These sins used to define us. We used to walk in them. But now that we are saved, we have the ability to put them away.

How?

Remember the context of the passage. Look to Jesus.

**Col 3:1-2**

(1) If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

(2) **Set your minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth.

There are some truths that help us in this pursuit to kill the sin in our life.

**Understand we as believers do not have to sin anymore**. Sin is a choice

**Rom 6:1-14**

(13) **Do not present your members to sin** as instruments for unrighteousness, **but present yourselves to God** as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.



(14) **For sin will have no dominion over you**, since you are not under law but under grace.

**As we look to Jesus realize we have been forgiven.**

**Col 1:13-14**

(13) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

(14) **in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

**As believers we are called to confess our sin.**

**1Jn 1:8-9**

(8) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

(9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession is saying the same thing about that sin that God does.

We say it was a mistake God says it was a choice

We say I can't believe I did\_\_\_ God says I know your frame

We say I'm sorry God says you are already forgiven

In Psalm 51 David is a perfect example in scripture of what Godly confession looks like. God desires a broken heart. Not promises or bartering listen to David.

**Psa 51:16-17**

(16) For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

(17) **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**Nothing good comes from hiding our sin. Confess it to God.**

**Psa 32:1-6**

(1) **A Maskil of David.** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

(2) Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

(3) **For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.**

(4) For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

(5) **I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess**

**my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah***

(6) Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

**In dealing with our sin, legalism has no value.**

**Col 2:16-23**

(20) If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—

(21) “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”

(22) (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?

(23) These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, **but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.**

**Realize there are times we cannot even see sin in our own heart and ask God to reveal it to you.**

**Psa 139:23-24**

(23) Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

(24) And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

**Finally as we look to Jesus realize He is working in us**

**Col 1:29**

(29) For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

“For this I toil”- is a present active indicative meaning something Paul is doing

“struggling with all his energy”- is a Present middle participle meaning something being done to Paul.

The (Amplified)says it this way “striving with all the **superhuman energy** which He so mightily **enkindles** and works within me.”

We are to toil at killing sin in our lives we are to take it serious and deal with it but realize the whole time it is His energy and power that enables us. We look to Him.

This is why this verse is so important. Seeking eternal thing, looking to Jesus is not passive, we are actively looking to Him as he works in us.

**Col 3:1-2**

- (1) If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- (2) **Set your minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth.