

I have the opportunity to fill in again. Last week we started looking at Colossians 3. Let's reread the passage before we dive into our study.

### Col 3:1-6

(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.

The if in this verse is a first class condition, meaning it is assumed to be true. Wuest translates the verse like this:

***In view of the fact, therefore, that you were raised with Christ, the things above be constantly seeking, where Christ is, on the right hand of God, seated.***

(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.

Our true identity as believers is in heaven with Jesus. We should live life here like we are from there. This is not our home.

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

This was our main verse last week. This command is literally to Kill Sin. We systematically studied sin last week. We defined sin as anything outside of God's character. God is the definition of holiness.

We also looked at the progression from temptation to sin. I want to remind you that being tempted is not sin. But as we act on that temptation (whether externally or internally) then it becomes sin. Scripture is clear sin comes from within our own evil desires in our hearts. It is not something external, it starts within.

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

God takes sin very seriously. It incurs His wrath and has to be dealt with. Jesus had to incur the wrath of God on the cross. Our sins were not forgiven just because God wanted to. God wanted to forgive our sins so Jesus had to incur the wrath that they deserved. Sin must be punished. Our forgiven sins were punished on the cross.

### Col 3:7-14

- (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.
- (11) Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.
- (12) **Put on then**, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
- (13) bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- (14) And above all these **put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

### Col 3:7

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

These sins used to define them. They used to partake in them. This can be an incredible encouraging verse. For anyone with a sin background you regret notice the Colossians had plenty in their past. Before they became believers, they lived like the Word. Now that you have been saved, your sin doesn't define you. You used to walk in sin but now you have been made new. Remember verse 3.

### Col 3:3

- (3) **For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

We have a new life in Christ. Yes, we all have sin in our background we regret, but we as believers have a new life. Let's live like it.

### Php 3:12-14

- (12) Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, **but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.**
- (13) Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,**
- (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Jesus gave us new life. We should not let past sins, keep us from living it. Verse 13 has a very important reminder. We must forget what is in the past and strain forward to seek Jesus.

Forgetting things in the past can be past sin that we need to move on from. Christ really means it when He says we are forgiven you do not have to carry that anymore. It can also mean forgetting past growth, and continuing to pursue a deepening walk with Him.

### Col 3:8-10

- (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.

Verses 8 the 10 describes a critical transaction that needs to take place in a believer. We have been made new and have a new life in Christ and yet we still have our old sin nature. So we are called to grow and learn how to put off sin, and to put on Christ. Put off the old self and put on the new.

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 no 10 steps to putting off sin. This is a spiritual truth and the answer is found in looking to Him. But There are some truths that help us in this pursuit to kill the sin in our life. These truths have been revealed to us to aid us in putting off the old sin nature and putting on the new life in Christ.

When we err in these principals, we will stall in the putting off and putting on process.

**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.

The Greek word for confess is <sup>☞</sup> *homologeō*,

homo means same, and logeo means to say

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

When we confess, we are to talk about that sin the same way God does in scripture. Confession is not feeling sorry that we got caught. Confession is not making promises to God that we will never sin again. It is taking the biblical lens and seeing our sin for what it really is. Detestable.

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 51:3-7**

(3) For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

(4) **Against you, you only, have I sinned** and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be

justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

David is not minimizing the people he has hurt with his sin, but David understands that sin is an affront to God and His holy character. Sin hurts a lot of people but it is deplorable and deeply hurts our holy God.

(5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

David is acknowledging he is a sinner. He is not saying "I cannot believe I did this" David is saying I am a son of Adam with a sin nature, I am a sinner.

(6) Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

(7) Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

He understands that he can only put on the new self and grow through God's power.

#### **Psa 51:16-17**

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

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

At times we can feel like correct actions or service counteract or even out our sin. I did this wrong but I do this good thing and now I'm even. God is not pleased by actions without the heart. True biblical confession involves a broken and contrite heart in front of God.

**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.

We have a choice now as believers. We often believe lies about our sin. We think things like "I had no choice" or "I couldn't help myself". Both of these thoughts are wrong. Sin is a choice for us as believers. We never **have to** sin. When we confess our sin to God we must acknowledge that we willfully chose to sin.

**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 have already been forgiven. We are justified by the blood of Jesus. When we sin, we are coming back into a right relationship with an all loving and gracious God. We are the prodigal son coming back to a Father running out to meet us.

### **Luk 15:20**

(20) And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Often times I think we view the father in the story up in a castle and the son has to be nervous and find just the right things to say. This uneasy nervous attitude can lead us to wanting to cover up or hide our sin.

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

David describes what it was like when he was hiding his sin.

### **Psa 32:1-5**

(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*

If we truly saw God as the father in the prodigal son running to meet us, and if we understood the freedom that is found when we confess; we would be more quick to confess.

### **In dealing with sin, we should take practical steps to remove sin or avenues of temptation**

Sin is from within and starts in the heart. Yet if we are going to take putting off sin and putting on our new life in Jesus seriously, we must be willing to take practical steps to remove temptations.

### **Rom 13:14**

(14) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh**, to gratify its desires.

Making no provision means removing anything possible that aids you in sin or tempts you in sin. This side of heaven we cannot remove our sin nature from us. So the idea is let's remove everything else that I can. Will I still have my sin nature and deceitful heart? Yes, but why make this any harder than it has to be.

This is what Joseph had to do when Potiphar's wife kept trying to seduce Joseph and tempt Him.

**Gen 39:11-12**

(11) But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house,

(12) she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." **But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.**

He got out and in a hurry. We are called to do the same. **Take time to ask God what things might need to change in your life to make no provisions for the flesh.** Is there a tv show that fills your minds with inappropriate things? Often, we think about the content but is there hurtful messages or themes you are surrounding yourself with? Or a friendship that does not aid your walk? Or a habit?

I have no idea I have my own things to work on. If you ask God will give you direction on what needs to change. He wants you to draw closer.

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

As we take practical steps to not indulge our old self we must not fall into the trap of legalism.

**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.**

Read that last verse carefully. Legalism has no value (not some value). Rules and regulations that do not involve the heart never stop sin. Legalism usually starts as something that might have been a healthy application for someone in their particular circumstance. It becomes an issue when that application become **THE only** application. Meaning it is now a hard and fast rule and that everyone needs to follow.

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

As we seek to put off sin and put on holiness realize there are times when we cannot see

what is going on in our own hearts. It is times like these we need to echo David's prayer.

**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!

This is a prayer that God is willing and eager to answer. He wants us to put on the new life. He has equipped us with everything we need. Why wouldn't he want to guide us through the process of growing.

**In order to kill sin in our lives we must start taking our thoughts captive to Christ**

There is a battle going on for our thoughts.

**2Co 10:3-5**

- (3) For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.  
 (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.  
 (5) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, **and take every thought captive to obey Christ,**

Again, we will not be able to get rid of our old sin nature here on earth. So we are going to have a lot of tempting thoughts and sinful thoughts. The battle starts in our hearts and in our thoughts. We must start thinking biblically.

**We must use Biblical terms for biblical issues.** We have a tendency to use man made terms to describe things. For example, the term workaholic. I cannot find a single verse in scripture about it. How do I think biblical about being a workaholic? But what are the underlying heart issues (greed, pride, selfishness, it could be many things) But notice all of these are addressed in scripture.

When we use Biblical terms, we are able to take these thoughts and making them obedient to Christ. Philippians 4 describes what this looks like.

**Php 4:5-9**

- (5) Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;  
 (6) **do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer** and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.  
 (7) **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Taking our thoughts captive starts with Prayer. Turn our thoughts over to God. Let Him know what you are thinking. If you are not sure if it is correct ask Him. Realize He may have

already given you an answer in the Word.

(8) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

You want a great list of what a thought obedient to Christ looks like. It is right here.

- It is true (what does scripture have to say about this?)
- Is it honorable (Is this something that I have to hide?)
- Is it just (does it treat things fairly?)
- Is it pure (Is it a thought a holy God would have?)
- Is it lovely
- Is it commendable (Is it praiseworthy?)
- Is it excellent

(9) What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—**practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.

If we are praying through our thoughts, and taking them captive to Christ it will lead to practice.

This is practically what looking to Jesus is. The more you think about Him and about eternal things, we will be putting on the new life.

### **Col 3:8-10**

(10) and have **put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

**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. At putting off our old life and putting on the new life. 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.**

### Rom 7:22-25

(22) **For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,**

(23) **but I see in my members another law waging war** against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

(24) **Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

(25) **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

## Put Off

## Put On

Lack of love	<u>1Jo 4:7,8,20</u>	<u>Jhn 15:12</u>	Love
Judging	<u>Mat 7:1-2</u>	<u>Jhn 8:9;</u> <u>Jhn 15:22</u>	Let God search my heart
Bitterness	<u>Heb 12:15</u>	<u>Eph 4:32</u>	Tenderhearted and forgiving
Unforgiving Sprit	<u>Mar 11:26</u>	<u>Col 3:13</u>	Forgiving spirit

Selfishness	<a href="#"><u>Phl 2:21</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Jhn 12:24</u></a>	Self denial
Pride	<a href="#"><u>Pro 16:5</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Jas 4:6</u></a>	Humility
Boasting (Conceit)	<a href="#"><u>1Co 4:7</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Phl 2:3</u></a>	Esteeming others
Stubbornness	<a href="#"><u>1Sa 15:23</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rom 6:13</u></a>	Brokenness
Disrespect for authority	<a href="#"><u>Act 23:5</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Heb 13:17</u></a>	Honor authority
Rebellion	<a href="#"><u>1Sa 15:23</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Heb 13:17</u></a>	Submission
Disobedience	<a href="#"><u>1Sa 12:15</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Deu 11:27</u></a>	Obedience
Impatience	<a href="#"><u>Jas 1:2-4</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Heb 10:36</u></a>	Patience
Ungratefulness	<a href="#"><u>Rom 1:21</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Eph 5:20</u></a>	Gratefulness
Covetousness	<a href="#"><u>Luk 12:15</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Heb 13:5</u></a>	Contentment
Discontent	<a href="#"><u>Heb 13:5</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1Ti 6:8</u></a>	Contentment
Murmuring/ Complaining	<a href="#"><u>Phl 2:14</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Heb 13:15</u></a>	Praise
Irritation of others	<a href="#"><u>Gal 5:26</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Phl 2:3-4</u></a>	Preferring in love
Jealousy	<a href="#"><u>Gal 5:26</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1Co 13:4</u></a>	Trust
Strife/Contention	<a href="#"><u>Pro 13:10</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Jas 3:17</u></a>	Peace
Retaliation (Getting even)	<a href="#"><u>Pro 24:29</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rom 12:19-20</u></a>	Return good for evil
Losing temper	<a href="#"><u>Pro 25:28</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pro 16:32</u></a>	Self-control
Anger	<a href="#"><u>Pro 29:22</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Gal 5:22-23</u></a>	Self-control
Wrath	<a href="#"><u>Jas 1:19-20</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pro 15:1</u></a>	Soft answer
Easily irritated	<a href="#"><u>1Co 13:5</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pro 19:11</u></a>	Not easily provoked
Hatred	<a href="#"><u>Mat 5:21-22</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1Co 13:3</u></a>	Love
Gossip	<a href="#"><u>1Ti 5:13</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Eph 4:29</u></a>	Edifying speech
Evil speaking	<a href="#"><u>Jas 4:11</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pro 15:30</u></a>	Good report
Critical spirit	<a href="#"><u>Gal 5:15</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Col 3:12</u></a>	Kindness
Lying	<a href="#"><u>Eph 4:25</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Zec 8:16</u></a>	Speak truth

Profanity	<u>Pro 4:24</u>	<u>Pro 15:4</u>	Pure speech
Laziness	<u>Pro 20:4</u>	<u>Pro 6:6-11</u>	Diligence
Lack of rejoicing always	<u>Phl 4:4</u>	<u>1Th 5:18</u>	Rejoice
Worry/Fear	<u>Mat 6:25-32</u>	<u>1Pe 5:7</u>	Trust
Unfaithfulness	<u>Pro 25:19</u>	<u>Luk 16:10-12</u>	Faithfulness
Neglect of Bible study	<u>2Ti 3:14-17</u>	<u>Psa 1:2</u>	Bible study/Meditation
Prayerlessness	<u>Luk 18:1</u>	<u>Mat 26:41</u>	Praying
No burden for the lost	<u>Mat 9:36-38</u>	<u>Act 1:8</u>	Compassion/Witnessing
Procrastination	<u>Pro 10:5</u>	<u>Pro 27:1</u>	Diligence
Cheating	<u>2Co 4:2</u>	<u>2Co 8:21</u>	Honesty
Stealing	<u>Pro 29:24</u>	<u>Eph 4:28</u>	Working/Giving
Gluttony	<u>Pro 23:21</u>	<u>1Co 9:27</u>	Discipline
Wrong friends	<u>Psa 1:1</u>	<u>Pro 13:20</u>	Godly friends
Temporal values	<u>Mat 6:19-21</u>	<u>2Co 4:18</u>	Eternal value
Love of money/Greed	<u>1Ti 6:9-10</u>	<u>Mat 6:33</u>	Love God
Stinginess	<u>1Jo 3:17</u>	<u>Pro 11:24-25</u>	Generosity
Moral impurity	<u>1Th 4:7</u>	<u>1Th 4:4</u>	Moral purity
Lust	<u>1Pe 2:11</u>	<u>Tts 2:12</u>	Pure desires