

Centered in Christ: Out with the Old

Colossian 3:5-11

Putting the Old Man Down (v. 5-7)

- Paul calls us to put to death everything in us that is at odds with the new life that Christ is building in us
 - Because we have died to our old lives (v. 3)
- This includes:
 - Sexual immorality (*porneia*): refers to any kind of sexual sin
 - Impurity: refers more generally to any kind of moral corruption
 - Passion: refers to sinful sexual thoughts; lust
 - Evil desire: Refers to the human sinful impulse
 - Our default mode apart from Christ is to sin
 - Covetousness: Greed; an inappropriate desire for more
 - This can mean money, power, pleasure, etc.
 - Which Paul equates with idolatry
 - Because it is placing a love for things over our love for God
- This way of living is what leads to death
 - But it also led Jesus to the Cross to remove the wrath that our sinful life deserves (see John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; 2:5, 8; 3:5-6; 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9)
- But notice Paul's use of the past tense in v. 7
 - Something has changed

Taking off the Old Self (v. 8-11)

- We are called to change
 - Starting with how we think
 - Anger, Wrath, & Malice: negative, vengeful thoughts towards other
 - Moving to how we speak
 - Slander: Tearing other down
 - Obscene talk: Blasphemy; speaking wrongly about God
 - Which results in lying to one another
- This change comes about as we put off the old self
 - And take up our new identity in Christ
 - When we seek Jesus, we begin to look more and more like Him
 - And this includes no longer seeing ourselves or others by ethnicity or social standing (v. 11)

So What?

- If Jesus has made us new, are we putting the old us to death?
 - And are we ready for Him to conform us to look like He does?

Meditation Verse: Col. 3:10