

## STOP Worshipping Yourself! Col 3:5-7

### I. Review Col 3:1-4

**Col 3: 1** Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

**A. OBVIOUS POINT – Focus on things above, Jesus Christ**

**B. LOOK at the STRUCTURE of 3:1-4**

Vs.	Facts/Foundation	Focus	Function
1	[Since] <u>you</u> have been raised up	with <u>Christ</u>	keep seeking the things above
		where <u>Christ</u> is, seated at the right hand of God	
2			<b>2</b> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
3	<b>3</b> For <u>you</u> have died	[2:20 with <u>Christ</u> ]	
	your life is hidden	with <u>Christ</u> in God.	
4	<b>4</b> When Christ, who is <u>our</u> life, is revealed, then <u>you</u> also will be revealed with Him in glory	<u>Christ</u>	

- a) **FACTS:** What God has done for YOU – Past, Present, Future
- b) **FOCUS:** Jesus Christ!
- c) **FUNCTION:** Seeking / Set Your Mind = Action!

### II. What is Your Foundation? 3 FACTS of Your FOUNDATION

**A. 2:20-3:4 Paul changing tenses**

**B. Fact 1: Past: Finished work of Jesus Christ in your life.**

2:20 If you have died with Christ... 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ,...

1. = salvation
2. Point: You ARE ALIVE in CHRIST NOW!

**C. Fact 2: Present**

Col 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

1. At the point that you were saved, your life was hidden with Christ

**D. Fact 3: Future**

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

1. Literally, v.4 reads – "When the Christ is revealed – the life of you"
2. He's going to bring us to glory with Him in the future.
3. He's our life. - Literally "Christ – the life of me!"

### III. Where Do You Focus? Jesus Christ / Things Above

#### A. Jesus Christ = Theme of 3:1-4

1. 5 times in 4 verses He is referenced
2. He is the OBJECT/Center of every verse / phrase in V.1-4

#### B. Look at 3:1-2

Col 3: 1...keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

1. Focus = "the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God"
2. "the things above" is defined three ways
  - a) "where Christ is seated at the right hand of God" = focusing on PERSON of Christ, exalted by God!
  - b) And, "things above" = 3:12-4:6 in detail as Christ-like LIVING in a section of "put on"
    - (1) = kindness compassion, gentleness, ...forgiveness, peace, submission..."
  - c) And, in contrast to "the things that are on the earth" (v.2)
    - (1) SO, Not the things of 3:5-9 that we are to PUT OFF!
  - d) Paul
    - (1) Things above = Righteous, Christ-like living focused on the Him!
    - (2) Things of the earth = worldly, sinful, things that pull you away from Christ – opposite direction!
3. Paul's not done showing you WHY you focus on Christ!

Col 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

- a) THESE PULL YOU FORWARD to YOUR FUTURE!
- b) = FOCUS NOW ON BECOMING what YOU WILL FULLY BE when your "life" = your glorified, fully-Christ-like life - is revealed!

### IV. How Do you Function? SEEK and SET!

#### A. **Seek:** Col 3: 1 ... keep seeking the things above

1. Seeking = Pursuing to OBTAIN Not "to discover/find"
  - a) = GOING AFTER to OBTAIN! = your WILL in Action!
2. Seeking = WILLFUL, CHOSEN PURSUIT to OBTAIN
3. And – it's CONTINUAL = ALWAYS keep seeking!

#### B. **Set Your Mind:** 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

1. Paul: NOT ONLY seek heavenly things, BUT THINK & ACT on heavenly things!
2. "Set your mind": Literally = "to think, set mind to"

a) = thinking for purpose of motivating the will into action

## V. STOP Worshipping Yourself! (3:5-7)

### A. Remember the Structure of Col 3-4

1. 3:1-4 = GENERAL, OVERALL Principle – set your mind, will, actions on Christ
  - a) [Keep Seeking](#)
  - b) [Set your Mind](#)
2. 3:5-11 = Earthly things to Put off
  - a) [3:5 Put to Death](#)
  - b) [3:8 Put off \(lay aside\)](#)
3. 3:12-4:6 Christ-like, heavenly things to Put on
  - a) [3:12 Put On](#)
  - b) [3:18 Submit](#)
  - c) [4:2 Devote Yourselves](#)
  - d) [4:5 Conduct Yourselves](#)

### B. Now – Focus in on Current Section

**Col 3:5** Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. **6** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, **7** and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. **8** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, **10** and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— **11** a *renewal* in which there is no *distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.*

1. Structure
  - a) V.5 Put to death + List
  - b) V.8 Put them all aside + list
  - c) Requirements followed by reasons in both cases
2. Paul is famous for “Put off / put On” metaphor
  - a) Clothing metaphor
  - b) As a Christian
    - (1) Wardrobe that MUST be NEVER WORN again
    - (2) Wardrobe you MUST wear to be Christ-like
3. Paul is famous for lists – TWO here!
  - a) Lots of Studies of his Lists
  - b) What we can say
    - (1) They vary greatly
    - (2) They represent sins of audience being written too
    - (3) BUT are “representative” lists, NOT complete lists

- (a) ALWAYS read: PUT OFF OLD LIFE/Behavior + PUT ON New Christ-like Life
  - (b) ALWAYS THINK: “OK, this is the list for the \_\_\_\_\_, BUT what would the list be if Paul was writing ME a personal letter?”
  - (4) They are NOT legalism or asceticism
    - (a) You DON’T make a list of rules from them
    - (b) You DO Obey them
    - (c) BUT in a framework of:
      - (i) Becoming a Christ-like Person
      - (ii) Balanced with all the other aspects of Christ-like behavior
      - (iii) Part of Put off/put on – ONLY way to grow as Christian!
  - (5) They often have eschatological reasons with them
    - (a) Paul OFTEN says (as he does here) THESE are the reasons the wrath of God will come
    - (b) God’s judgment WILL COME on those whose lives are characterized by these!
4. One more general point – there’s a difference in the commands!
- a) V.5 = PUT TO DEATH (talk about in a minute)
    - (1) = STOP RIGHT NOW.
    - (2) You become a Christian, you STOP THESE.
  - b) V.8 = Put off = part of a process of Putting off and putting on while renewing the mind
  - c) Example – Adultery vs. Anger
    - (1) You say you are committing adultery
      - (a) I don’t say, “well, OK, let’s start counseling and get you out of that relationship over the next 3 months!”
      - (b) NO – STOP NOW!
    - (2) You say you have an anger problem
      - (a) I DO say “let’s start counseling”
      - (b) BEGIN IMMEDIATELY to stop being angry
      - (c) BUT we have to renew your mind (Scripture, prayer, focus...)
      - (d) AND we have to PUT on NEW Christ-like behaviors

### **C. 3:5-7 Real Simple Structure**

1. Requirement (v.5)
2. Reasons (v.6-7)

<h2><b>VI. Requirement – Stop Worshipping Yourself</b></h2>
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### **A. “Therefore” =**

1. Since you have died with Christ
2. Since you have risen with Christ

3. Since Christ IS your Life
4. Since you focus on Christ
5. Therefore, GIVEN ALL THE TRUTHS of 3:1-4

**B. consider the members of your earthly body as dead**

1. Talk about a BAD translation!
2. NKJ: “Therefore, put to death your members which are upon the earth”
3. Verb: Literally = “put to death”
  - a) Verb = Ne-kraw-o = root = “necrophiliac” = love of dead corpses
  - b) Verb tense VERY SPECIFIC = DO IT NOW COMMAND
    - (1) = KILL these things IMMEDIATELY!
    - (2) Put them to death NOW!
  - c) = MENTAL Perspective AND ACTION
    - (1) REGARD yourself dead to these things
    - (2) They have no POWER, PLACE in your LIFE
    - (3) “I do NOT HAVE to LIVE OUT THESE SINS”
  - d) Paul in Romans 6 (NKJ)
 

Ro 6:11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NASB: Ro 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
4. the members of your earthly body
  - a) OK, what does he mean here?
  - b) First, this phrase is in “apposition” to the list
    - (1) = phrase equates to the list
    - (2) = members of your earthly body ARE immorality, impurity...
    - (3) Really? Yes/no
  - c) Paul is using a figure of speech known as a metonymy (a metonym).
    - (1) = substitution of one thing for another BECAUSE they are in such a close relationship
    - (2) Ex: “don’t give me any lip” = don’t talk back to me!
    - (3) Lips are equated with speech!
    - (4) Not the you were going to give me your lips!
    - (5) Paul: Because of the close association that sin has with our bodily members, I’m calling the members the sinners!
    - (6) members are where these sins manifest

***C. So, getting past the metonym, Paul is saying, “Therefore, PUT TO DEATH the following list of things!”***

1. Key to this list: Order is from
  - a) ACTIONS to ATTITUDES
  - b) EXTERNALS to INTERNALS
  - c) Manifestations to Motives

#### **D. Immorality (fornication) = pornea (root for pornography)**

1. Most general / broadest term for sexual sin
2. Covers ALL/EVERY form of sexual sin: fornication, adultery, pornography, etc.
3. = OUTWARD manifestation of sins from within
4. Paul writes often about immorality!
  - a) [1 Cor 6:18 – FLEE immorality](#)
  - b) [1 Thes 4:3 Abstain from immorality](#) –will of God for you!
5. Paul – THIS WAS part of your past, unsaved life – it WAS NORMAL! NOW – consider it ABNORMAL, WRONG, MUST NOT DO!
6. Now Paul turns INWARD to the mind attitude that commits leads to immorality...

#### **E. Impurity (uncleanness)**

1. = evil, filthy, perverted, sexual thoughts / intentions BEHIND the evil deed of immorality
2. = mind that turns EVERYTHING, no matter how wholesome into sinful sexual thoughts.
3. Jesus said it clearly:
 

[Mk 7:21](#) “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,

  - a) Inside sinful thoughts leads to external sins.
4. Doesn't Scripture teach that we MUST control our thoughts to control our actions? Yes!
 

[Ro 12:2](#) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

  - a) Thoughts TO Actions
  - b) [“transformed...so that.. prove...the will of God.”](#)

#### **F. Passion = pathos**

1. = uncontrolled feelings/emotions
2. = so controlled by feelings that you use others to satisfy your selfish desires
3. Ever met someone who lives by their feelings?
  - a) Literally have had people tell me “If it feels right, I do it”
  - b) “I let my feelings lead me”
  - c) Isn't that what the world teaches?! Yes!

#### **G. Evil Desire = Epithumea = LUST!**

1. = craving something forbidden
2. Willing to Disobey God to get it - I MUST have it
3. Out-of-control desire that controls you
4. Do you see the pattern here! Probably easiest to see in reverse
  - a) [Evil Desire](#) -Lust – must have it
  - b) [Passion](#) - Feelings/emotions for it
  - c) [Impurity](#) - Thoughts focusing on specifics of what I must have – mind controlled by

these desires/passions

- d) Immorality - Actions – Immorality – I go and do it
5. James is the strongest passage on evil desire / lust:

**Jas 4: 1** What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? **2** You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

- a) Lust leads to murder! THAT STRONG!
6. But – what is behind lust?

#### **H. and greed, which amounts to idolatry**

1. “and”
  - a) Not like our usage where it is grammatically required for the last item in the list
  - b) Greek – brings emphasis in this list-like construction
2. “greed” REALLY “THE greed” (compound: to have more)
  - a) Article “the” brings specificity and emphasis!
  - b) You know which Greed I’m talking about!
  - c) Greed = covetousness
    - (1) = wanting what is forbidden
    - (2) Wanting MORE than WHAT I HAVE – ESPECIALLY when it belongs to someone else!
    - (3) Attitude that ALL things EXIST for my benefit
  - d) Warnings are many against greed!
  - e) Did you know that Jesus’ great discourse on seeking first the kingdom STARTED with GREED!

**Lk 12: 13** Someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the *family* inheritance with me.” **14** But He said to him, “Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?” **15** Then He said to them, “**Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.**” [what does your life consist of? **A: Col 3:4 Christ IS your life**] ~~**16** And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. **17** “And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ **18** “Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **19** ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.” ’ **20** “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?’ **21** “So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” **22** And He said to His disciples, “For this reason I say to you, do not worry about *your* life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. **23** “For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. **24** “Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! **25** “And which of you by worrying can add a single~~

hour to his life's span? 26 "If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? 27 "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 28 "But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith! 29 "And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. 30 "For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. 31 "But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. 32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. 33 "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. 34 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

3. So, why read all that? BECAUSE it ties back to Col 3:5
4. and greed, which amounts to idolatry
  - a) Greed is TIED to idolatry with is at the BOTTOM of our DEEPS INTERNAL PROBLEMS!
  - b) What was Jesus trying to teach in Luke 12?
    - (1) Depend on God, not on yourself
    - (2) Worship God who takes care of you NOT worship yourself as self-provider
  - c) What is idolatry? = SELF-WORSHIP!
  - d) What is the First commandment?
 

Ex 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God
  - e) What is the Greatest Commandment?
 

Mt 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.
5. Do you see the principle here? You ONLY have TWO choices for what you ULTIMATELY WORSHIP
  - a) Worship God
  - b) OR Worship SELF
6. WHEN you peel back ALL the layers of the Onion SKIN and GET to the Core – SIN STARTS in IDOLATRY
  - a) Sin = SELF-WORSHIP
  - b) MY way is BETTER than God's WAY
  - c) I OBEY ME
  - d) I worship ME
  - e) I GLORIFY me!

**I. What's the *BOTTOM LINE, SUMMARY, KEY* to Col 3:5? *SIMPLIFIED* to its *CORE*?**

1. SINCE you have died with Christ
2. SINCE you have been raised with Christ
3. SINCE you HAVE resurrection life
4. SINCE CHRIST is YOUR LIFE
5. SET your MIND on CHRIST – WORSHIP HIM
6. Then 3:5 THEREFORE STOP WORSHIPPING YOURSELF!

**J. *WHEN* you worship yourself**

1. Then you will be GREEDY – want MORE than GOD has GIVEN you
2. Then you will develop EVIL DESIRES and PASSIONS – LUSTS for FORBIDDEN things
3. Then your THOUGHTS will be CONTROLLED by these forbidden things
4. THEN you WILL LIVE OUT THE SINS of THINGS FORBIDDEN by GOD – Here, immorality
5. Immorality then can be seen as ONE of the WORST forms of IDOLATRY

**1Co 6:18** Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. **19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

a) V.13 adds that your body is for the LORD!

**K. *KEY: FIRST thing MUST DO/ALWAYS DO* as a Christian**

1. WORSHIP CHRIST
2. STOP WORSHIPING SELF
3. That is the message of Col 3:5-7
4. That is WHY it is a SIMPLE, STRAIGHT-forward COMMAND TO STOP DOING IT NOW and FOREVER!

**VII. The Reasons**

**A. The *REASONS* are *QUICK* and *STRAIGHT* forward!**

**B. Look at V.6-7**

**Col 3:6** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, **7** and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

**C. *TWO parallel clauses***

1. These sins bring the wrath of God!
2. These sins belong to an unbeliever!

**D. *These Sins bring the wrath of God!***

**Col 3:6** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

1. "For it is because of these things" = BECAUSE of the list above
2. "the wrath of God will come" = PRESENT and FUTURE PUNISHMENT of SIN
  - a) Present:

**Ro 1: 18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness

and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

(1) = present tense = NOW, continually being revealed!

(2) God PUNISHES SIN NOW – CONTINUALLY

b) Future = Rom 2:5 + GREAT WHITE THRONE judgment (Rev 20:11-13)

**Ro 2:5** But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

c) Paul- WHY would you do ANYTHING that God hates SO MUCH that He will PUNISH it NOW and ETERNALLY!

d) We're going to appear at another judgment – the Judgment seat of Christ (bema Seat)

**2 Co 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

(1) = Judgment FOR REWARDS as a Christian (you sins were judged and dealt with at the Cross

(2) BUT EVEN in light of this judgment, what does the verse before say?

**2 Co 5:9** Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

(3) INSTEAD of doing things that WILL BRING God's judgment, FOCUS on PLEASING HIM!

3. "sons of disobedience" = UNSAVED

a) Eph 2:2;5:6

**Eph 2:2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

**Eph 5:6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

4. We WILL NOT face the wrath of God in the future!

a) Believers:

**1 Th 1:10** ... wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

### ***E. These Sins belong to an unbeliever!***

7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

1. These sins CHARACTERIZED your past as an unbeliever"

2. "walked" / "you were living in them" = overall behavior / manner of life / pattern of living!

3. Paul :

**Eph 2:1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world,

**Tit 3:3** For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

4. Remember what Paul said back in 2:20

**Col 2:20** If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, ...

a) You died to this stuff! Why do you still do it?

5. I like the way Peter said it:

**1 Pe 4: 1** Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. **3** For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

6. SO – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reason NOT to do these sins – they CHARACTERIZE your UNSAVED PAST – leave them there!

7. NOT part of your life in Christ NOW