

**Throw Away the Clothes of DISUNITY!  
Col 3:8-11 Part 1**

**I. Have the Right Perspective**

1Peter2:11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers...

**A. Aliens and Strangers – If you don't understand this, you don't understand the NT and being Christian!**

1. Aliens = Literally: “alongside the house”
2. Strangers
  - a) “person making a brief stay – sojourner going through – passing through!”
  - b) What a word!
    - (1) Day-mos = district, country
    - (2) EPI-day-mos = to be at home
    - (3) Para epi-day-mos = to be away from being at home!
  - c) Prefer “Sojourner” to “stranger” – SAYS MORE ABOUT TRAVELING in a DIFFERENT PLACE THAN HOME!
3. Together
  - a) Emphasizes that DON'T BELONG HERE!
  - b) we LIVE ALONGSIDE AND are PASSING THROUGH.
  - c) This IS NOT OUR HOME!
    - (1) Our citizenship is IN HEAVEN (Phil 3:20)
    - (2) Our life is HID WITH CHRIST IN HEAVEN (Col 3:3)
    - (3) Peter defines our HOME as an INHERITANCE
      - (a) Undefined, unfading, imperishable
      - (b) NO WAY TO DEFINE IN POSITIVE TERMS!
      - (c) Its INCOMPREHENSIBLE!
  - d) Many Christians OPERATE as-if they want God to make HEAVEN LIKE EARTH
  - e) Our whole goal of everything we do is in 1Peter 1:7
    - (1) NOT for the perishable gold
    - (2) BUT for the praise and honor and glory at the revelation of JC!
    - (3) WE live for THAT APPROVAL – not DOWN HERE!
    - (4) Bad statement: Don't be so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good!
    - (5) Should be: Don't be so earthly minded that you're no heavenly good!
  - f) John puts it opposite – 1 John 2:15-17
 

15 Do not love the world nor 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 lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

**B. Picture**

1. For ONCE the Bible has a MODERN Metaphor! - ALIENS!
2. One of the most vivid metaphors in the Bible.

**C. Practical Application**

1. Think about traveling to a distant, foreign place! PERFECT METAPHOR
2. TRAVEL LIGHT – stick to necessities – ACQUIRE ONLY WHAT YOU CAN TAKE HOME
3. STICK to YOUR PURPOSE THERE!
  - a) Do what you came to do
  - b) Don't get entangled in local life, etc.
4. You're ON GOOD BEHAVIOR when you travel!
  - a) Like to know / follow laws carefully
5. Your different culture IS OBVIOUS to ALL
  - a) Affects behavior!
  - b) Get more opportunity to talk about your TRUE HOME!
6. MISS YOUR HOME! LONG FOR IT! LOOK FORWARD to RETURNING!
7. Guess what? ALL THAT FITS OUR PASSAGE!
8. JUST KEEP THE PERSPECTIVE OF A TRAVELER – A STRANGER in a STRANGE LAND!
9. Why is that? Because
  - a) Everything we're commanded to do is REPRESENTATIVE of YOUR OLD LIFE – your unsaved life
  - b) IOW – It is OPPOSITE the way the world lives
  - c) That's why the Bible says you have to PUT OFF these things – they were part of who you were!

**D. At the most FUNDAMENTAL BOTTOM LINE thing to put off is what we covered last week...let's review...**

**II. Review: STOP Worshipping Yourself! (3:5-7)**

**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.

**A. Structure**

1. V.5 Put to death + List / V.8 Put them all aside + list
2. Requirements followed by reasons in both cases

**B. Paul is famous for lists – TWO here!**

1. They represent sins of audience being written too
2. 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?”
  - c) They are NOT legalism or asceticism
    - (1) You DON'T make a list of rules from them
    - (2) You DO Obey them
    - (3) BUT in a framework of:
      - (a) Becoming a Christ-like Person
      - (b) Balanced with all the other aspects of Christ-like behavior
      - (c) Part of Put off/put on – ONLY way to grow as Christian!

**C. There's a difference in the commands!**

1. [V.5 = PUT TO DEATH](#) (talk about in a minute)
  - a) = STOP RIGHT NOW.
  - b) You become a Christian, you STOP.
2. [V.8 = Put off](#) = part of a process of Putting off and putting on while renewing the mind

**III. Review 3:5-7 Real Simple: Stop Worshipping Yourself!**

**A. Requirement – Stop Worshipping Yourself**

1. “[Therefore](#)” =
  - a) Since you have died with Christ
  - b) Since you have risen with Christ
  - c) Since Christ IS your Life
  - d) Since you focus on Christ
2. [consider the members of your earthly body as dead](#)
  - a) Verb: Literally = “[put to death](#)”
    - (1) = DO IT NOW COMMAND
    - (2) = KILL these things IMMEDIATELY!
    - (3) Put them to death NOW!
  - b) [the members of your earthly body](#)
    - (1) = figure of speech known as a metonym
      - (a) = substitution of one thing for another BECAUSE they are in such a close relationship
      - (b) Ex: “don't give me any lip” = don't talk back!
        - (i) Lips are equated with speech!
3. Paul-- “PUT TO DEATH the following list of things!”

4. Key to this list: Order is from
  - a) ACTIONS to ATTITUDES
  - b) EXTERNALS to INTERNALS
  - c) Manifestations to Motives
5. Immorality (fornication) = pornea (root for pornography)
  - a) Covers ALL/EVERY form of sexual sin: fornication, adultery, pornography, etc.
  - b) = OUTWARD manifestation of sins from within
  - c) Now to the mind attitude that leads to immorality...
6. Impurity (uncleanness)
  - a) = evil, filthy, perverted, sexual thoughts / intentions BEHIND the evil deed of immorality
  - b) = mind that turns EVERYTHING, no matter how wholesome into sinful sexual thoughts.
7. Passion = pathos
  - a) = uncontrolled feelings/emotions
  - b) = so controlled by feelings you use others to satisfy selfish desires
8. Evil Desire = Epithumea = LUST!
  - a) = craving something forbidden
  - b) Willing to Disobey God to get it - I MUST have it
  - c) Out-of-control desire that controls you
9. and greed, which amounts to idolatry
  - a) "and" – brings emphasis in this list-like construction
  - b) "greed" REALLY "THE greed" (lit: "to have more")
    - (1) Article "the" brings specificity and emphasis!
    - (2) You know which Greed I'm talking about!
    - (3) Greed = covetousness
      - (a) = wanting what is forbidden
      - (b) Wanting MORE than WHAT I HAVE –
      - (c) ESPECIALLY when belongs to someone else!
      - (d) Attitude that ALL things EXIST for my benefit
    - (4) Warnings are many against greed!
  - c) and greed, which amounts to idolatry
    - (1) Greed is TIED to idolatry with is at the BOTTOM of our DEEPS INTERNAL PROBLEMS!
    - (2) What is idolatry? = SELF-WORSHIP!
  - d) You ONLY have TWO choices for what you ULTIMATELY WORSHIP: Worship God OR Worship SELF
  - e) WHEN you peel back ALL the layers of the Onion SKIN and GET to the Core – SIN STARTS in IDOLATRY
    - (1) Sin = SELF-WORSHIP

- (2) MY way is BETTER than God's WAY  
 (3) I OBEY ME / I worship ME / I GLORIFY me!
10. What's the BOTTOM LINE, SUMMARY, KEY to Col 3:5? SIMPLIFIED to its CORE?  
 a) SINCE CHRIST is YOUR LIFE  
 b) SET your MIND on CHRIST – WORSHIP HIM  
 c) Then 3:5 THEREFORE STOP WORSHIPPING YOURSELF!
11. WHEN you worship yourself  
 a) Then you will be GREEDY – want MORE than GOD has GIVEN you  
 b) Then you will develop EVIL DESIRES and PASSIONS – LUSTS for FORBIDDEN things  
 c) Then your THOUGHTS will be CONTROLLED by these forbidden things (impurity)  
 d) THEN you WILL LIVE OUT THE SINS of THINGS FORBIDDEN by GOD – Here, immorality  
 e) 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.
12. KEY: FIRST thing MUST DO/ALWAYS DO as a Christian  
 a) WORSHIP CHRIST  
 b) STOP WORSHIPPING SELF

### **B. The Reasons 3:6-7**

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.

1. TWO parallel clauses

- a) These sins bring the wrath of God!
- b) These sins belong to an unbeliever!

2. These Sins bring the wrath of God!

- a) "the wrath of God will come" = PRESENT and FUTURE PUNISHMENT of SIN  
 (1) Paul- WHY would you do ANYTHING that God hates SO MUCH that He will PUNISH it NOW and ETERNALLY!
- b) "sons of disobedience" = UNSAVED

3. These Sins belong to an unbeliever!

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

- a) These sins CHARACTERIZED your past as an unbeliever" – leave them there!
- b) NOT part of your life in Christ NOW

#### IV. THROW AWAY the CLOTHES of DISUNITY

**Col 3:8** 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.

##### A. The Requirement

1. Here we go – another list!
2. But now you also
  - a) = simple then/now contrast to the end of V.7
  - b) = THEN you lived in these sins, NOW also put off the following list
  - c) “NOW” = decisive, emphatic NOW! Not to wait! NOW!
3. put them all aside
  - a) = Clothing metaphor
  - b) Take off/throw away/never wear again!
  - c) Will be combined with “put on” in V.12
    - (1) IMPORTANT: 2 sides to Christian Change!
    - (2) ALWAYS a combination of PUT OFF/ON
4. The list!
  - a) ATTITUDES: Anger, Wrath, Malice
  - b) ACTIONS: Slander, Abusive Speech, Lying
  - c) Work from Inside → out! (previously outside→ In)

##### 5. The Three ATTITUDES of DISUNITY

6. Anger, wrath
  - a) Remember – there are three types of anger and we have two of them here!
  - b) “Anger” = REASONED anger
    - (1) Root = to be puffed up, swell, excited
    - (2) = Anger that COMES from VIOLATING your PRINCIPLES, BELIEFS, VIEWS, EXPECTATIONS
      - (a) “I have a REASON to be ANGRY!”
      - (b) NOT instant, hot-headed anger
    - (3) Various authors:
      - (a) Settled conviction anger
      - (b) Anger with an element of deliberate thought
    - (4) Remember – THIS MOST OFTEN is SIN!
      - (a) REASONS are REASONED BUT WRONG!

- (b) Your BELIEFS are WRONG!
- (c) "I get angry EVERY TIME SHE DOES THAT!"
- (d) Q: Should you? A: No.
- (5) I see this ANGER A LOT when SOMEONE BELIEVES you are ATTACKING a PERSON
  - (a) Criticizing them / Insulting them
  - (b) Trying to HURT them verbally.
  - (c) THEY TAKE it PERSONALLY
  - (d) You've gotten UNDER THEIR SKIN!
  - (e) IOW – VIOLATED what they BELIEVE about themselves and they get angry!
  - (f) REASONED anger is LONGER term
- (6) BTW – You put a preposition on the front of this anger and you get the THIRD type of anger not seen in this list – RESENTMENT anger
  - (a) = bitterness
  - (b) = long-term, smoldering anger

c) Wrath= RAGE anger

- (1) = THUMOS = rage, wrath (two most common words used in English Bibles)
- (2) = INSTANT NUCLEAR EXPLOSION
- (3) Accompanied by a desire to harm or inflict pain!
- (4) NEVER tolerated for a Christian!
- (5) God will show His wrath at final judgment (Rom 2:8)
- (6) BUT – never allowable for us
- (7) = Road Rage, "losing it" RAGE
- (8) Of the three types – RAGE anger has the SHORTEST DURATION

7. Malice

- a) General term for evil = NASTY EVIL
- b) Evil that wants to hurt / injure any way possible
- c) When Paul puts this in the list, you know he's covered ALL bad attitudes!

8. Then THREE ACTIONS of DISUNITY...
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9. Slander

- a) Same word as "blasphemy"
- b) = "blasphemy" when directed towards God
- c) = "slander" when directed towards people
- d) literally = "to talk down"
- e) = backbiting, disparaging remarks, evil speaking
- f) Happens BEHIND a PERSON'S BACK (DECEIT is to their face...)

## 10. Abusive speech

- a) Only use in NT (other words are common)
- b) Obscene speech / dirty talk / filthy talk MEANT TO HURT

## 11. V.9a Lying

### Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another...

- a) A Minister is walking home for lunch one day
  - (1) As he passes through the neighborhoods – he sees a group of young boys about 10-12 years old huddled around a cute little puppy dog.
  - (2) He approaches the boys and asks what they are doing with the cute little dog.
  - (3) They explain that it is a stray dog and that each of them wanted to take the dog home to his.
  - (4) So, they had decided to have a contest and the winner would get to keep the dog
  - (5) The contest? Whoever could tell the biggest LIE won the dog!
  - (6) So, the minister says “Boys, that’s terrible! You shouldn’t have a lying contest! Don’t you know that Lying is a sin! When I was your age I NEVER LIED! In fact, I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT LYING!”
  - (7) Instantly, the excitement on the boys faces turns to frowns and they become very quiet.
  - (8) The minister thinks, “Yes, they’ve learned a good lesson here today!”
  - (9) After unbearable moments of silence with the boys all looking back-and-forth at each other, one of the boys looks up at the minister and says, “OK, you get to take the dog home.”
- b) = LYING!
  - (1) = Not genuine / not real / antithesis of truth / opposite of truth
  - (2) ALWAYS used in NT to meaning LYING!
- c) Remember – Lying is NOT just the blatant lie – when the paper is white and you say it is black!
- d) LYING = ALL FORMS of VERBAL DECEPTION!
- e) We lie when we
  - (1) Plain lie – black vs. white
  - (2) Shade the truth – Grey vs. white!
  - (3) Exaggerate
  - (4) Silent when the truth should be spoken!
  - (5) Etc.!

## 12. STOP LYING! – PUT AWAY FROM YOU!

## **B. The REASONS**

Col 3:9 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—

1. Reasons = You're dead to sin / You're SAVED and becoming like Christ!
  - a) Lying is associated with your old life!
  - b) You're becoming like Christ!
2. since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices
  - a) = your SALVATION (laid aside the old side)
  - b) "its evil practices" = your dead life
    - (1) We've seen a LOT of what characterized your old life in V.5's list and V.8's list + LYING!
    - c) Paul: Stop lying since IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR OLD LIFE!
3. 10 and have put on the new self
  - a) =Other half of your salvation!
  - b) New creation, new man, etc.
 

2 Co 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
4. who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—
  - a) "who is" = the new self
  - b) "being renewed" is a VERY rich word!
    - (1) Literally: "the one which is ever being renewed"
    - (2) = new in Quality + preposition to make a contrast to old self
      - (a) IOW – God doesn't repair the old self!
      - (b) The old SELF DIED
      - (c) The NEW SELF IS NEW and becoming like Christ!
      - (d) So, "renewal" as a translation gives wrong idea!
      - (e) I like Romans 12:1-2 "transformed"!
    - (3) = continual
      - (a) Started at Salvation
      - (b) Ends at glorification
      - (c) Don't worry –

Phil 1:6 He who began a good work in you will complete it!

2 Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
    - (4) = PASSIVE = We're NOT the ones doing the renewal – GOD IS!
    - (5) This renewal is what we call "sanctification" or "progressive sanctification"

2 Co 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

- (6) What's the PURPOSE of this renewal?
- c) to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—
- (1) “true knowledge” = epi-knowledge!
    - (a) =deep knowledge!
    - (b) True knowledge of what?
  - (2) according to the image of the One who created him—
    - (a) = Jesus Christ!
    - (b) And, since we're talking about “image” here  
Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
    - (c) = God's image!
  - (3) Point-We're being transformed into the image of Jesus Christ
    - (a) Here – Paul focuses on the transformation of our knowledge
    - (b) Christ-like knowledge!
  - (4) BUT – overall POINT of the v.9-10 is what?
    - (a) Don't LIE!
    - (b) It's part of your OLD self
    - (c) NOT part of your new self
    - (d) AND – that new self is GROWING in SUPER KNOWLEDGE of Jesus Christ
    - (e) Key – what do you get with a full, complete, super-deep knowledge of Christ?
    - (f) A: YOU KNOW HIS WILL
    - (g) Then you know
      - (i) That this stuff must go
      - (ii) AND Christ-like stuff must be put on!
    - (h) Do you want to see Paul say it plainly? Turn to Col 1:9  
Col 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
      - (i) Knowledge of His WILL SO THAT we live Christ-like lives!

### **C. The RESULT**

1. 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.
  - a) I'm going to save this one for next week.
  - b) I see some exciting things here that I want to explore this week!

## V. CONCLUSION

### A. Put to death / PUT these all aside of 3:5-9

1. YOU MUST PUT THESE ASIDE
2. Not "God help me kind of stuff"
3. Not "God, I've sinned against my spouse (anger, wrath, malice,...) – PLEASE TAKE IT AWAY so that I can Love her!"
  - a) God says "YOU TAKE IT AWAY"
  - b) I've given My Son / My Spirit
  - c) Walk in obedience by the empowering of MY SPIRIT and you can stop these evil desires of your flesh
  - d) Heb 12:4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;
4. You say, "God, I hate this anger, wrath, malice..
  - a) You know what – NO YOU DON'T
  - b) YOU'RE MORE IN LOVE WITH YOUR ANGER THAN YOU ARE WITH YOUR SPOUSE OR WITH GOD
  - c) MORE IN LOVE WITH YOUR LUSTS, DESIRES, WANTS
  - d) -> MORE IN LOVE WITH YOU! IDOLATRY!
  - e) = IDOLATRY OF SELF!

### B. So, Go back to 3:1-7

1. ARE you TRULY living 3:1-4
2. AND have you REALLY STOPPED WORSHIPPING YOURSELF.
3. Unless you are willing to stop worshipping yourself, then doing applying 3:8-9
  - a) = Behavior Modification
  - b) NOT = Believer SANCTIFICATION!