

## Put Off - Put On

Colossians 3:5-11 – July 11, 2010

II Timothy 2:22

Romans 5:1-2

Galatians 5:16, 18, 24-25

➤ **A New Life Based Upon** \_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 3:3-4

- Constantly call to mind who you are \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't forget who you \_\_\_\_\_ were
- Tell yourself who you \_\_\_\_\_  
when Christ returns

➤ **That Which Needs To Be** \_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 3:5-9

“*CONSIDER*” =

### SINS OF PERVERTED LOVE

Matthew 5:28

James 1:15

Philippians 4:8

### SINS OF HATRED

1<sup>st</sup> – The sins of \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:32

2<sup>nd</sup> – The sins of \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **That Which Needs To Be** \_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 3:10

Romans 13:14

➤ **That Which Will Then Be** \_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 3:11

### **Wrap Up:**

Psalm 51:10

Putting off the old and putting on the new is \_\_\_\_\_

## Put Off - Put On

Colossians 3:5-11 – July 11, 2010

**Intro:** We will be looking at the Christian life from the negative side ... and from the positive side. On the one hand it is accurate to say that the Christian life is not a list of do's and don'ts. On the other hand ... the Christian life *does* include some "don'ts!" But the "don'ts" are always followed by a bunch of "*do's!*"

Again I bring you back to a key concept for sanctification in the believer's life.  
*Become in your lifestyle what you are by God's grace.*

Warren Wiersbe

*"How I stand – and walk – depends on where I sit; and I am seated with Christ in the heavens!"*

### **Colossians 3:1-2**

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

A legalist and the self-righteous says ...

*I have the ability to live a godly life in my own power ...*

But God makes it clear – this is hogwash!

Externals, activities of the flesh to avoid sin – have absolutely no power over the world, the flesh and the devil.

### **Colossians 2:23**

These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

Notice

*"are of now value against fleshly indulgence"*

The way of sanctification ...

### **Romans 5:1-2**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

5:2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand ...

The principle is stated here:

*"We have obtained (past tense) our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand"*

We are SAVED by grace and we STAY in grace.

We are not SAVED by grace to LIVE by works!

### **Galatians 5:16, 18, 24-25**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.  
 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.  
 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.  
 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

**Transition:** Believers have a depth of life – more than meets the eyes – because of who we are *IN* Christ. And this new life is based upon an interesting concept. We see in our first point ...

## ➤ A New Life Based Upon DEATH

### Colossians 3:3-4

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

A summary of what Paul is saying ...

- Constantly call to mind who you are **NOW**  
 (Those who have died with Christ)
- Don't forget who you **ONCE** were  
 (*In these sins we also once walked, when we were living in them*)
- Tell yourself who you **WILL BE** when Christ returns

### Colossians 3:4

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory

This hidden dimension of our Christian life and hidden resources is where the invisible power of God abides ... all because Christ lives within us.

### Colossians 1:27

“... the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

One of the great adventures as a Christian is discovering what we were given at the moment of salvation – power to live!

If you have not discovered this – it's time you do. It is a key to victorious living.

**Transition:** Now that we have the power to live ... we have power to LEAVE sin! And thus the Apostle Paul gives us the negative side of Christianity ... what we must avoid.

The ability to leave sin is based on the principle ... become in your lifestyle what you ARE by God's grace.

Illustrate:

When I work in the yard ... especially on a hot day ... when I finish and come into the house ... Linda is quick to say – *please get out of those clothes as soon as you can*. Now if I

shower and then put on those dirty smelly clothes again ... Linda would think I have lost it. Those dirty clothes need to be discarded and I need to put on clean clothes. That's logical. And that's the same way it is for the Christian.

Once we're born-again – our heart is cleansed and we need to get rid of the old sinful habits and lifestyles. That's logical!

One of the things my Alma-mater – Biola College was known for in the past was its dress code. Men could not have long hair and the young women had to wear skirts. The administration was convinced there was a way for Christians to look and to dress. Indeed there is. But it has little to do with hair and skirts ... it has to do with character and conduct.

The metaphor – *putting off*

In our study today ... Paul is using the metaphor of *changing clothes*.

The two-fold process ... (3:8)

**3:8** - "*Put them all aside*"

**3:10** - "*Put on the new*"

**KING JAMES VERSION** is my preference here ...

**Verse 8** – "*put off*"

**Verse 9** – "*put off the old man*"

**Verse 10** – "*put on the new man*"

**Verse 12** – "*put on ... mercies*"

**Verse 14** – "*put on ...charity*"

**Transition:** There are two simple steps that need to be repeated over and over again. The first step is ...

## ➤ **That Which Needs To Be PUT OFF**

### **Colossians 3:5-7**

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

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

3:7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

"*CONSIDER*" = literally means "*put to death*"

Before you can put on clothes that are stylish and classy ... you've got to get rid of the old rags.

The first list of sins to be put off all relate to sexual sins.

Paul does not merely give us a warning against these sins ... he names them and tells us to leave them!

### **SINS OF PERVERTED LOVE**

1<sup>st</sup> – **IMMORALITY** (*porneia*) = Sexual immorality

From this Greek word we see the root of the word *pornography*.

*Porneia* originally referred to prostitution.

In the New Testament its meaning is expanded to include any form of illicit sex.

The Bible is clear!

Sexual activity outside of the marriage bond between a man and a woman – a husband and a wife – is strictly forbidden!

Immorality is at the top of the list of the deeds of the flesh

2<sup>nd</sup> – **IMPURITY** = Going beyond the sinful activity to sexually sinful thoughts

**Matthew 5:28**

“... everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

3<sup>rd</sup> – **PASSION** – sexual passion let loose in the body ...

Erotic passions ...

There was a time in our society when these kinds of sins were kept carefully under cover. But with the coming of the internet and cable television – sexual temptations is available everywhere with the click of a mouse or with a remote control button.

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THERE ARE MEN IN THIS ROOM THAT ARE SUCCUMBING TO PORNOGRAPHY.

Paul is making it clear ...

ENOUGH!

LEAVE IT!

NO MORE!

TAKE IT OFF!

BREAK IT OFF!

*Men, when you look at pornography you're putting on your filthy clothes ... that which you are to have discarded!*

4<sup>th</sup> – **EVIL DESIRE** – Evil passion and evil desire are related. Perhaps passion is the physical and evil desire the mental side of the same vice.

**James 1:15**

Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

Sexual sins begin with evil thoughts

The battle against sin always begins in the mind.

Pure thoughts lead to pure behavior

**Philippians 4:8**

“Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

**Transition:** It is interesting that in the list of sins of immorality ... Paul inserts “GREED”.

5<sup>th</sup> – **GREED** – a strong desire to acquire more and more material possessions.

And notice what greed really is – IT IS IDOLATRY!

What is idolatry? It is replacing God with material things!

Idolatry places selfish desire above obedience to God

Idolatry is people doing what they desire ... worshipping themselves instead of God.

Coveting is a form of greed!

The opposite of covetousness is contentment!

**Question:**

*ARE THESE SINS REALLY ALL THAT BAD?* The answer is in verse 6

**Colossians 3:6**

For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come ...

In other words ...

The sins that will result in God’s wrath ... **BETTER NOT BE CONDONED IN THE BELIEVER’S LIFE!**

**Colossians 3:7**

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

Paul could not be more clear ...

These are the very sins from which you were liberated!

Don’t go back!

Discard them!

Get out of those filthy clothes and into your new clothes

**Transition:** The next list is not considered as dirty to many as the previous list. But they are!

**G Campbell Morgan** entitled these sins ... *The sins in good standing*

**Jerry Bridges** would call these *Respectable sins*

**SINS OF HATRED**

Two classes of sins

1<sup>st</sup> – The sins of **ATTITUDE**

**Colossians 3:8A**

But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, ...

“**ANGER**” = Inner hatred ...

“**WRATH**” = An outburst of anger coupled with an inner attitude of rage

A universal truth

When anger is left to fester it will always turn into something more wicked.

Temper tantrums are the result of unresolved anger!

“**MALICE**” = Hatred that is hidden with ill will towards another – accompanied with the desire to injure!

Malice is the hidden sin of being MAD when another is successful ... and SAD when they succeed

The solution to this sin – one word ...

### **FORGIVENESS**

Forgiving others is only possible when we understand **OUR OWN** forgiveness

#### **Ephesians 4:32**

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

#### Review

So the first class of sins in verses 8 are sins of **ATTITUDE**.

We see ...

2<sup>nd</sup> – The sins of **SPEECH**

#### **Colossians 3:8-9**

But now you also, put them all aside ... slander and abusive speech from your mouth.  
3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices

“**SLANDER**” = Verbally attacking someone’s character ...

“**ABUSIVE SPEECH**” = Filthy language or profanity. Crude talk

“**DO NOT LIE**” = Simply not telling the truth!

White lies – what some believers think are acceptable are still lies!

You’ve probably heard the story of the little boy in Sunday School who was asked

“*What is a lie?*”

His answer:

“*A lie is an abomination to the Lord, but a very present help in time of trouble*”

My friends, a lying tongue, people who do not tell the truth ruin relationships.

- ✓ Lying breeds suspicion
- ✓ Lying destroys trust

**Transition:** The first step we are to repeat over and over again is that which needs to be PUT OFF.

But don’t miss this ... **NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM.**

If you put off something and don't put on godliness ... wickedness will again fill that void.

Story: Jesus tells us what happens when someone has an evil spirit cast out ...

**Transition**: So the second simple step is even more important than the first ...

## ➤ **That Which Needs To Be PUT ON**

### **Colossians 3:10**

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—

**J Vernon McGee** taught this section of Scripture and entitled it ...

*"What the Well-Dressed Christian Will Wear This Year."*

The well dressed Christian is dressed in *THE NEW SELF*

#### The new-self TUXEDO OR FORMAL GOWN

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:23)

And when you're all dressed up ... you'll look like someone special.

The One you'll look like is Jesus Christ!

*"being renewed ... according to the image of the One who created him"*

### **Romans 13:14**

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

The importance of filling the spiritual vacuum after putting off sin ... is illustrated in II Timothy 2:22

### **II Timothy 2:22**

Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

That which is to be ABANDONED ...

*"Fleeing youthful lusts"*

That which is to be PURSUED

*"and pursue righteousness, faith love and peace,*

The sometimes forgotten section ...

Pursue these things ... *WITH THOSE WHO CALL ON THE LORD FROM A PURE HEART"*

- ✓ We need to be around godly people
- ✓ We need fellowship with people who love the Lord
- ✓ Fellowship is a means to put on the new self

**Transition:** Paul reveals one of the things that results in putting off the old clothes and putting on new clothes. You know you're a WELL-DRESSED CHRISTIAN when verse 11 is practiced.

## ➤ That Which Will Then Be DISPLAYED

### Colossians 3:11

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.

You know you are well dressed ...

When you don't view other believers

- ✓ By whether or not they are a Jew or non-Jew

*"no distinction between Greek and Jew"*

- ✓ By their religious background

*"circumcised or uncircumcised"*

- ✓ By their cultural distinctions

*"Barbarian, Scythian"*

People from some cultures were despised because of the brutality of their ancestors.

- ✓ By their social status

*"Slave and freeman"*

Watch this

The believer who has put on the new self ... sees believers in a new light

Important phrase (VERSE 11)

*"BUT CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL"*

Jesus is pre-eminent. Jesus is our priority and He lives in every believer.

The point

To the believer who has put on the new self ...

Jesus Christ is everything!

And every brother and sister in Christ is precious because Christ is in them ... and they are family!

A love for Christ obliterates any distinction in the family of God

## Wrap Up:

We were formed in God's image but DEFORMED from God's image by sin.

As we put on the Lord Jesus we're transformed and are being TRANSFORMED

Just because you are a WELL-DRESSED CHRISTIAN today ... does not mean you'll automatically be a well-dressed Christian tomorrow!

This pastor's perspective

*There have been some times this week that I've been dressed up in the Lord ...I've put on the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*But I've had times when I put on the rags of my old nature.*

*I'm glad the Holy Spirit continues to work on me so I put off the old rags and put on the new!*

Our prayer should always be ...

**Psalm 51:10**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

*But this re-enforces my last point.*

Putting off the old and putting on the new is **CONTINUOUS!**

*Become in your lifestyle what you are by God's grace ...*

*In Christ you are holy ... therefore act out who you actually are*

You've got all the power necessary to do this

You have Christ's presence abiding in you to do this

DO IT!