

"Living up to our Position in Christ."

Part 4

Colossians 3:1-12

Introduction: Last week in our study of Colossians we looked at one verse in particular.

Notice Colossians 3:5a

We looked at our responsibility to kill sin and the importance of killing sinful thoughts and desires that try to get into our lives as believers. We are dead to sin but sin is not dead. It is a constant battle in the believer's life to be sure that our bodies are yielded to righteousness and not to sin. Sin will lead to death in the believer's life.

Romans 6:16-18

¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey: whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

How does sin lead to death in the believer? Sin kills our spiritual life. It kills the power of God that is to flow through us. It kills your peace and rest. It kills our testimony. It kills our desire for the Word of God and it kills our prayer life. Therefore, sin must be put to death so that it cannot have a place in our lives.

Let me also say that sin does not cause us to lose our salvation for that is absolutely impossible. We were born into the family of God and we cannot be unborn. Once we were born again, we will forever be His children. Sin will never change our RELATIONSHIP with God but it breaks our FELLOWSHIP. Confessing our sin to the Lord then restores the fellowship.

1 John 1:7-9

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

⁸ If we say that 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.

As we come back to the text tonight, we will see several sins that Paul lists. These were sins that were prevalent in his day. Now Solomon tells us that there is no new thing under the sun and looking at these sins we can see the Truth in his statement because these are sins that are also prevalent today.

- **Casting off Sin**
- **Part 2**

Notice Colossians 3:5

Paul lists 5 sins here in this verse.

1. **Fornication** - This is sexual sins.
2. **Uncleanness** - This refers to a wider sense of impurity.

Notice this illustration.

While driving along a highway, we often see vultures soaring high overhead, swooping down, and then rising up again with the air currents. Every so often, a small group of them can be seen sitting right on the roadway, tearing apart and gobbling up the carcass of some unfortunate creature. One gets the impression that these ugly birds are on the lookout continually for what is loathsome and repulsive!

Does that describe the desires of your heart? What kind of "food" do you prefer? Don't be like the vulture.

Rather, "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word. The new birth creates a new appetite and requires a new diet.

3. **Inordinate affection** - This refers to sinful passions.
4. **Evil concupiscence** - Evil desires or cravings.
5. **Covetousness** - The desire to have something which belongs to another.
6. **Idolatry** - When the thing desired begins to control our desires and passions and God gets pushed aside.

James tells us how we get into sin.

James 1:13-15

¹³ *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

¹⁴ *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away [lured, baited] of his own lust, and enticed [caught, hooked].*

¹⁵ *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

Let us go back to the list that Paul gives again. The first sin that is listed is fornication. This sin is mentioned in many other passages also. The reason is because this sin is far more serious than other sins. Why is that?

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

¹⁸ *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; **but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.***

¹⁹ *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

²⁰ *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

The sin of fornication is against the believer's body. What does this mean? A quick answer would be that sexual sin affects the pleasure center of the brain. Other sins do not do this but sexual sin does. Sexual sin has caused many people great heartache over the years. Solomon turned away from God as he followed his lustful desires.

1 Kings 11:1-11

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites:

² *Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.*

³ *And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.*

⁴ *For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.*

⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

⁶ And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

⁷ Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

⁸ And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

⁹ And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

¹⁰ And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

¹¹ Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

Let us remember the entire situation between Balaam and Balak in Numbers. Balak hired Balaam to curse Israel but God would not permit him to do so. But Balaam really wanted the rewards that Balak offered.

Numbers 22:3-7

³ And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel.

⁴ And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.

⁵ He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me:

⁶ Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people: for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of

the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

⁷ And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.

You can read about Balaam's attempt to curse Israel through Numbers 24 and then we read this.

Numbers 24:25

²⁵ And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

This looks like it ended with Balaam leaving without getting the rewards of divination. But his desire for those rewards was so great that he came up with a plan to please Balak and get the rewards.

Numbers 25:1-3

And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

² And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

³ And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

Numbers 31:16

¹⁶ Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

Now let us note the cost of this fornication.

Numbers 25:9

⁹ And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

Notice Colossians 3:6

One day the unsaved world will answer for all their sin and even as we speak the wrath of God is upon those who are involved in these sins as well as all sin.

Romans 1:18

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

The unsaved are already experiencing the wrath of God, but not to the full extent. We who are believers will never experience the wrath of God. We are IN CHRIST and God's wrath will never fall upon Him again. But that does not mean we can sin without consequences. When believers fall into these sins they are chastised.

Conclusion:

Hebrews 12:6-10

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.