

"Living up to our Position in Christ."

Part 6

Colossians 3:1-12

Introduction: In our study of Colossians, we have been looking at Paul's Words in chapter 3. Here in the beginning of this chapter he is calling on believers to cast aside sin and walk in the power of the new resurrected life in Christ. He has explained that we were one IN sin but now we are IN Christ and therefore we are to yield our members as instruments of righteousness.

Notice Colossians 3:1-7

This now brings us to where we are this evening.

- **Casting off Sin**
- **Part 4**

Notice Colossians 3:8-10

When Paul speaks of casting off sin in these verses he does so with the imagery of putting off old clothing and putting on new clothing. Notice the words of Miles Stanford.

"The new man was put on when we were re-created in the Lord Jesus. This new nature is the very life of the One who is the express image of God. Therefore, our growth in the knowledge of Him results in the manifestation of His life. For years we try to handle the problem of sin and self directly. On the negative side, we seek to suppress self, or crucify the old nature. On the positive side, we plead with God to change us for the better, and we try to be more Christ-like. But in it all, we never seem to emerge from Romans Seven—total defeat. Finally, we learn to meet the problem indirectly, by reckoning. We see in the Word that the old man has been effectively "put off" at the cross; and we also see that the new man has been "put on" through our resurrection in Christ. Instead of being taken up with the problem, we now set our mind and heart on God's answer: the crucifying cross and the risen Christ."

The point Paul is making is that we now have the power to live up to our position in Christ therefore let us cast off sin and walk in that new life in the power of the Spirit. I want to now go back to the list which Paul gives in verse 8. The last time we were together we considered why Paul gave this second list and concluded that it was because these are sins that are often accepted because they are not the sins in the first list. These are sins that are often viewed as "sins in good standing." But the Truth is that these are sins that will

also kill our spiritual lives also. I want to therefore take some time and look at each of these sins that are mentioned in verse 8.

Notice Colossians 3:8 again.

1. Anger

When we think of anger, we often do not consider the seriousness of the sin. There is an anger that is perfectly fine for a believer to exercise.

Ephesians 4:26

²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Here is a command to be angry. This is an anger that is directed toward sin. It is good for the believer to be angry at sin. But we must be very careful not to allow the anger to remain. Anger that remains with the believer can run wild if not kept in check. Spurgeon said, "The believer who is not angry at transgression becomes a partaker in it." We should be angry at sin because it is an offense against our Lord.

But there are many people who get angry when someone does something that is displeasing to them. There are many who struggle with a temper and at times they are completely overwhelmed with their anger. This is what we are commanded to cast off. Let us notice one situation where anger was not kept in check.

Numbers 20:1-4, 8-12

Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

² And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

³ And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

⁴ And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?

⁷ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

⁸ Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt

bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

⁹ *And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.*

¹⁰ *And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?*

¹¹ *And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.*

¹² *And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.*

Moses anger cost him dearly. Because he lost his temper and did not just speak to the Rock but instead, he struck it for the second time, he would not be permitted to lead Israel into the land of Canaan. Moses would later request that the Lord would change His mind and allow him to cross over.

Deuteronomy 3:23-28

²³ *And I besought the LORD at that time, saying,*

²⁴ *O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?*

²⁵ *I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.*

²⁶ *But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.*

²⁷ *Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.*

²⁸ *But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see.*

I show you all of this to help us to see that anger can be very costly.

2. Wrath

This is the eruption of anger. This sin is seen in outbursts of anger from a person who struggles to control their temper. We can see this wrath in Nebuchadnezzar and it even went to the next stage of fury.

Daniel 3:16-22

¹⁶ *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.*

¹⁷ *If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.*

¹⁸ *But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

¹⁹ *Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.*

²⁰ *And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

²¹ *Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

²² *Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.*

3. Malice

This refers to a mean-spirited person. It is a vicious attitude that desires to do harm to others. Webster defines malice as a desire to cause pain, injury, or distress to another and implies a deep-seated often unexplainable desire to see another suffer or experience pain, injury, or distress!

When I read these descriptions of what malice is it is very alarming to me that we are called to put this off because that means that as children of God, we can practice this very sin. When someone does something that causes pain in our lives our response should be forgiveness but often it is malice. We want them to feel the very pain which they caused us to fear.

Matthew 5:43-46

⁴³ *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.*

⁴⁴ *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

⁴⁵ *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

⁴⁶ *For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?*

4. Blasphemy

This word can be translated "blasphemy" or "slander." It is blasphemy when directed at the Lord and it is slander when directed at man. Notice the words of Ironside.

"We are also to "put off blasphemy. This dreadful sin may be directed either godward or manward. Men blaspheme against God by imputing evil to Him, or by seeking to misrepresent Him, or by perverting the truth about the Father, the Son, or the Spirit. But speaking injuriously of one another, reviling rulers, or governors, circulating wicked and untruthful reports about one's brothers, and seeking to harm God's servants by such evil reports—all these are also included under the general term blasphemy."

5. Filthy communication

James 3:8-12

⁸ *But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

⁹ *Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*

¹⁰ *Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

¹¹ *Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*

¹² *Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.*

Conclusion:

Notice the words of *Vernon C Grounds*

"As a young boy, theologian Alister McGrath enjoyed experimenting with chemicals in his school's laboratory. He liked to drop a tarnished coin into a beaker of diluted nitric acid. He often used an old British penny bearing the image of Queen Victoria. Because of the accumulated grime, Her Majesty's image couldn't be seen clearly. But the acid cleansed away the grime and the Queen's image reappeared in shining glory.

We know, to be sure, that we were created in the image of God but that image has been defaced by our sin. We are still His image-bearers, however.

Once we trust Jesus as Savior, He goes to work to restore the original image. He transforms us to make us like Himself.

Unless and until our sin-tarnished souls are cleansed by Jesus' forgiveness, God's image is obscured in our lives. But when we trust Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we are forgiven and the restoration begins."

Matthew 22:17, 20-21

¹⁷ *Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?*

²⁰ *And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?*

²¹ *They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.*