

Gospel Therefore

Gospel Transformation: Putting Off Your Old Ways

Colossians 3:1-11

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / 17-Jun-2012

REMEMBER and RESPOND

Paul reminds us in Col. 3:1-4 of who we are in Christ.

A literal translation of Col. 3:1 in the original Greek would read something like this:

“Since you have been co-resurrected with Christ...”

Just as one gets their bearings from a compass that always points north, Col. 3:1b-2 reminds us that our minds & eyes must always be pointed towards “the things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

REASON

We’ve already shared in Christ’s death, and our life is secure in Christ! (Col. 3:3-4)

Rom. 6:11 “So you must also **consider yourselves dead to sin** and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Even though we live a risen life with Christ now, we’re still told we need to put sin to **death**. Why? Sin’s penalty was removed from us at the cross, but the power is still alive and active in our fallen world and bodies.

4 REASONS SIN MUST BE PUT TO DEATH

1. Sin brings forth death, so kill it before it kills!

James 1:14,15 “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, **and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.**”

"Use sin as it will use you; spare it not, for it will not spare you; it is your murderer, and the murderer of the world; use it, therefore, as a murderer should be used. Kill it before it kills you; and though it bring you to the grave, as it did your Head, it shall not be able to keep you there."

~ Richard Baxter, *A Puritan Golden Treasury* [Edinburgh; Banner of Truth, 1977] p. 281

Paul makes two “hit lists” of sins that need to be put to death. In his first list, he deals with personal sins relating to our feelings.

sexual immorality ← impurity ← passion ← evil desire ← covetousness (idolatry)

| ACTION | ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← | MOTIVE |

2. **Sin invites God's judgment on unbelievers.**

Col. 3:6 "On account of these the wrath of God is coming."

3. **Sin invites God's discipline on believers.**

Heb. 12:5b "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord..."

4. **Ongoing, conscious sin should be part of our past, not our present.**

Col. 3:7 "In these too you once walked, when you were living in them."

2 WAYS TO KILL SIN

1. **Starvation of the flesh.**

Rom. 13:14 "... make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."

2. **Saturation of grace.**

Philp. 4:8 "Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **just**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if there is any **excellence**, if there is anything **worthy of praise**, think about these things."

Questions for Small Group/Personal Application:

- (1) By God's grace, are you seeking to kill sin in your life, or do you just occasionally push it away, kick it aside, maybe bruise it a bit...but consciously allow it to maintain a presence in your life?
- (2) Which sin(s) is God calling you to put on your "hit list" right now?
- (3) We are members of one another (Rom. 12:4,5). Who will you ask to help you with the starving of your flesh and/or the grace-saturation you need to put this sin(s) to death?