

# Taking Off The Old, & Putting On The New



Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2  
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 133–138.

**Fear**LESS



## **Colossians 3:1–11** (NKJV)

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.



5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.



8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.



# Control Your Emotions

- Christian faith brought a whole new concept into pagan society: what we believe has a very definite connection with how we behave and control our emotions!
- After all, faith in Christ means being united to Christ; and if we share His life, we must follow His example.

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**Colossians 3:1-11**



# Control Your Emotions

- He cannot live in us by His Spirit and permit us to live in sin and act erratic.
- Paul connected doctrine with duty in this section by giving his readers living instructions.

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**Colossians 3:1-11**



# Seek the Heavenly (Col. 3:1–4)

- The emphasis is on the believer's relationship with Christ.
- We died with Christ (v. 3a). The fullest explanation of this great truth is found in (Romans 6-8) Christ not only died for us (substitution), but we died with Him (identification).



# Seek the Heavenly (Col. 3:1–4)

- Christ not only died for sin, bearing its penalty; but He died unto sin, breaking its power.

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**Colossians 3:1–11**





# This Is A Work Of The Holy Spirit.

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- Because we are “in Christ” through the work of the Holy Spirit, we died with Christ.

## **1 Corinthians 12:13** (NKJV)

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.



- This means that we can have victory over the old sin nature that wants to control us.

## **Romans 6:1–3 (NKJV)**

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?



# Christ Is Our Life

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- We live in Christ (v. 4a). Eternal life is not some heavenly matter that God imparts when we, as sinners, trust the Saviour.
- Eternal life is Jesus Christ Himself.

## 1 John 5:12 (NKJV)

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.



- We are dead and alive at the same time—dead to sin and alive in Christ.
- Someone has said, “Life is what you are alive to.”
- Paul wrote, “For to me to live is Christ” (Phil. 1:21).
- Christ was Paul’s life and he was alive to anything that related to Christ. So should it be with every believer.



# It Is Possible To Be Alive And Still Live In The Grave.

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- We are raised with Christ (v. 1a).
- When Jesus gave us His life, He lifted us out of the grave and set us on the throne in heaven!
- Christ is seated at the right hand of God, and we are seated there “in Christ.”



- The word if does not suggest that Paul's readers might not have been "risen with Christ"; for all of us, as believers, are identified with Christ in death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.
- The word since gives the truer meaning of the word. Our exalted position in Christ is not a hypothetical thing, or a goal for which we strive. It is an accomplished fact.



# “Hidden In Christ”

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- ***We are hidden in Christ (v. 3b).*** We no longer belong to the world, but to Christ; and the sources of life that we enjoy come only from Him.
- “Hidden in Christ” means security and satisfaction.
- The Christian life is a “hidden life” as far as the world is concerned, because the world does not know Christ.



# 1 John 4:1–6 (NKJV)

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God:  
**Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,**

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**Colossians 3:1–11**





3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.



6 **We are of God.** He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. **By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**

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Colossians 3:1-11



# We Are Influenced By Heaven

- Our sphere of life is not this earth, but heaven; and the things that attract us and excite us belong to heaven, not to earth.
- This does not mean that we should ignore our earthly responsibilities.
- Rather it means that our motives and our strength come from heaven, not earth.

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**Colossians 3:1-11**



- Now, in view of our wonderful identification with Christ, we have a great responsibility:
- “Seek those things which are above” (Col. 3:1). Through Christ’s death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, we have been separated from the old life of this world, and we now belong to a new heavenly life.



- How do we “seek those things which are above”? The secret is found in Colossians 3:2: **“Habitually set your mind—your attention—on things above, not on things on the earth”** (literal translation).
- Our feet must be on earth, but our minds must be in heaven



- It means that the practical everyday affairs of life get their direction from Christ in heaven.
- It means further that we look at earth from heaven's point of view.

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**Colossians 3:1-11**



# Slay The Earthly

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- Slay the Earthly (Col. 3:5–9)
- We turn now from the positive to the negative. There are some people who do not like the negative. “Give us positive doctrines!” they say.



# Slay The Earthly

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- “Forget about negative warnings or admonitions!” But the negative warnings and commands grow out of the positive truths of Christian doctrine. This is why Paul wrote, “Therefore put to death.”

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**Colossians 3:1–11**





# Slay The Earthly

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- No amount of positive talk about health will cure a ruptured appendix.
- The doctor will have to “get negative” and take out the appendix.
- No amount of lecturing on beauty will produce a garden.



# Slay The Earthly

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- The gardener has to pull weeds!
- The positive and the negative go together, and one without the other leads to imbalance.

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**Colossians 3:1-11**



# Slay The Earthly

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- “Put to death.” Because we have died with Christ (Col. 3:3), we have the spiritual power to slay the earthly, fleshly desires that want to control us.
- Paul called this “reckoning” ourselves to be dead to sin but alive in Christ (Rom. 6:11).



# Slay The Earthly

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- Our Lord used the same idea when He said, “And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out” (Matt. 5:29–30).

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**Colossians 3:1–11**



# Slay The Earthly

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- Obviously, neither Paul nor Jesus were talking about literal surgery. Sin does not come from the eye, hand, or foot; it comes from the heart, the evil desires within. Centuries ago in England, if a pickpocket was convicted, his right hand was cut off. If he was convicted a second time, his left hand was amputated. One pickpocket lost both hands and continued his “trade” by using his teeth! Physical surgery can never change the heart.



# Slay The Earthly

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- Not only was Paul negative in this paragraph, but he also named sins; and some people do not like that. These sins belong to the old life and have no place in our new life in Christ. Furthermore, God's judgment falls on those who practice these sins; and God is no respecter of persons. God's wrath fell on the Gentile world because of these sins (Rom. 1:18ff), and His wrath will fall again. "Because of these, the wrath of God is coming," Paul warned (Col. 3:6, NIV).



# Slay The Earthly

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- **“Fornication”** refers to sexual immorality in general.
- **“Uncleanness”** means “lustful impurity that is connected with luxury and loose living.”



# Slay The Earthly

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- **“Passion”** describes a state of mind that excites sexual impurity. The person who cultivates this kind of appetite can always find opportunity to satisfy it.
- **“Evil desires.”** It is clear that cravings lead to deeds, appetites lead to actions.





**If We Would Purify Our  
Actions, Then We  
Must First Purify Our  
Minds And Hearts.**

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**Colossians 3:1-11**



## **Proverbs 23:7** (NKJV)

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, But his heart is not with you.

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**Colossians 3:1–11**



# Slay The Earthly

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- What we desire usually determines what we do.
- If I create in my children an appetite for candy, then I must satisfy that appetite.
- If they become overweight and unhealthy, then I must change their appetites, and I must teach them how to enjoy foods other than sweets.



“Create in me a clean heart, O God” should be our prayer; for it is out of the heart that these evil desires come.

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**Colossians 3:1–11**



## **Psalm 51:10** (NKJV)

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

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**Colossians 3:1–11**



## **Mark 7:21–23 (NKJV)**

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”



# Slay The Earthly

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- After he had named these sensual sins, Paul added, “and **“covetousness”**, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5b).
- Covetousness is the sin of always wanting more, whether it be more things or more pleasures.



# Slay The Earthly

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- The covetous person is never satisfied with what he or she has, and he or she is usually envious of what other people have.

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**Colossians 3:1-11**





# Slay The Earthly

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- This is idolatry, for covetousness puts things in the place of God.
- “Thou shalt not covet” is the last of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:17).
- Yet this sin can make us break all of the other nine!

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**Colossians 3:1-11**



# Slay The Earthly

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- A covetous person will dishonor God, take God's name in vain, lie, steal, and commit every other sin in order to satisfy his sinful desires.

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**Colossians 3:1-11**



# Slay The Earthly

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- Do believers in local churches commit such sins? Unfortunately, they sometimes do.
- Each of the New Testament epistles sent to local churches makes mention of these sins and warns against them.



# Sensual Sins

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- After warning us against the sensual sins, Paul then pointed out the dangers of the social sins (Col. 3:8–9).
- Dr. G. Campbell Morgan called these **“the sins in good standing.”**



# Sensual Sins

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- We are so accustomed to mismanaged anger, critical attitudes, lying, and abrasive humor among believers that we are no longer upset or convicted about these sins.



# Sensual Sins

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- We would be shocked to see a church member commit some sensual sin, but we will watch him lose his temper in a business meeting and call it “righteous indignation.”



# Put Off...Put On

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- The picture here is that of a person changing clothes: “Put off ... put on” (Col. 3:9–10).
- This relates to the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Col. 3:1); for when He arose from the dead, Jesus Christ left the grave clothes behind (John 20:1–10).



# Put Off...Put On

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- He had entered into a glorious resurrection life and had no need for the grave clothes.
- Likewise, when Lazarus was raised from the dead, Jesus instructed the people to “loose him, and let him go” (John 11:44).
- The grave clothes represent the old life with its sinful deeds.





# Put Off...Put On

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- Now that we have new life in Christ, we must walk “in newness of life” by putting off the old deeds and desires (Rom. 6:4).

**Fear**LESS

Colossians 3:1-11



# Put Off...Put On

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## **Romans 6:4** (NKJV)

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Fear**LESS

**Colossians 3:1-11**



# Put Off...Put On

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- We do this by practicing our position in Christ, by reckoning ourselves to be dead to the old and alive to the new.

**Fear**LESS

**Colossians 3:1-11**



# Put Off...Put On

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- Paul began with anger, wrath, and malice—sins of bad attitude toward others.
- **“Anger”** is the same as the word wrath (Col. 3:6), referring there to the wrath of God.
- This word describes habitual attitudes, while wrath refers to the sudden outburst of anger.



# Put Off...Put On

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- God has a right to be angry at sin and to judge it, because He is holy and just.
- In fact, there is a righteous anger against sin that ought to characterize the saints (Eph. 4:26).
- But none of us have the right to “play God” and pass final judgment on others by our attitudes.



# Put Off...Put On

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- **“Malice”** is an attitude of ill will toward a person.
- If we have malice toward a person, we are sad when he is successful, and we rejoice when he has trouble. This is sinful.

**Fear**LESS

**Colossians 3:1-11**



# Put Off...Put On

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- **“Blasphemy”** describes speech that slanders others and tears them down.
- Often among Christians this kind of malicious gossip masquerades as a spiritual concern:
- “I would never tell you what I know about her, except that I know you’ll want to pray about it.”



# Put Off...Put On

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- Evil speaking is caused by malice (1 Peter 2:1). If you have deep-seated ill will toward a person, you will use every opportunity to say something bad about him.

**Fear**LESS

**Colossians 3:1-11**





# Put Off...Put On

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- “Filthy language” is just that: foul speech, harsh humor, obscene language.
- For some reason, some Christians think it is manly or contemporary to use this kind of speech.
- Low humor sometimes creeps into conversations.



# Put Off...Put On

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- If someone says, “Now, take this with a grain of salt!” you can remind him of Colossians 4:6: “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt.”
- Salt is a symbol of purity, and grace and purity go together.

**Fear**LESS

**Colossians 3:1–11**



# Put Off...Put On

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- The final sin Paul named was **“lying”** (Col. 3:9).
- He wrote this same warning to the believers in Ephesus (Eph. 4:25). Satan is the liar (John 8:44), while the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17; 15:26).



# Put Off...Put On

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- When a Christian lies, he is cooperating with Satan; when he speaks the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), he is cooperating with the Spirit of God.

**Fear**LESS

**Colossians 3:1-11**



# Put Off...Put On

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- A lie is any misrepresentation of the truth, even if the words are accurate.
- Lying involves the intent to deceive for the purpose of personal gain. An old proverb says, “Half a fact is a whole lie.”

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**Colossians 3:1–11**



# Put Off...Put On

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- Bishop Warren A. Candler was preaching about the lies of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5), and asked the congregation, “If God still struck people dead for lying, where would I be?”
- The congregation snickered a bit, but the smiles disappeared when the Bishop shouted, “I’d be right here—preaching to an empty church!”

