



Christ over Moral Character

Colossians 3:5-11

Study Guide

1. Read Colossians 3:5a. What does it mean to radically “put to death” things that hold us back?

Give examples of what that could mean (see also Matthew 18:8-9). Discuss.

2. Read Colossians 3:5b-7. Discuss the concept of misplaced passion. What is the progression people experience from idolatry (worship of self), to greed, evil desire...sexual immorality. What are some ways of identifying these internal struggles and how to pray as we experience them? Discuss.

3. Read Colossians 3:8. Discuss the concept of misguided anger. Share examples of perceived needs, expectations or wants and how these things can make us angry. Talk about the progression of anger in verse 8 and how it starts to affect relationships.

4. Read Colossians 3:9-11. Be honest (v. 9), and be intentional (v. 10-11). How can honesty with yourself and others be helpful in identifying your core issues of misplaced passion and misguided anger? How can we be more intentional in our pursuit of God, and how does identifying ourselves as being ‘in Christ’ help us? Discuss.

Application

If you have noticed tendencies of lust and anger in your life, consider what it means to ‘kill’ those things. Pray quietly for a while to ask God to reveal some steps He may want you to take.

Over All Media Outline

Theme: Christ over Moral Character

Colossians 3:2-3

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

A. Radical Intentionality (Colossians 3:5a)

"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: ..."

B. Misplaced Passion (Colossians 3:5b-7)

"...sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them."

1 John 2:1-2

"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

C. Misguided Anger (Colossians 3:8)

"But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth."

D. Taking Action (Colossians 3:9-11)

1. Be Honest (v. 9)

"Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices."
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1 John 1:8-9

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

D. Taking Action (Colossians 3:9-11)

1. Be Honest (v. 9)

2. Be Intentional (v. 10-11)

¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.