

Theme: As those who have been given new life in Christ, believers must put off their former vices so they can be like Christ.

## I. Intro – Cleaning Our House

- A. Renting house for commissioning week
- B. Requires major “spring cleaning”
- C. Getting out old stuff, throwing away, scrubbing
- D. People often do this in the spring
- E. Spring - time of new life, and cleaning out
- F. The same metaphor is true for believers
- G. How do we do “spring cleaning” of our lives?

## II. Our New Life In Christ

- A. Paul is now getting to practical application
  - 1. The rest of the letter is filled with commands
  - 2. Rest of the letter has a lot of practical application
- B. Practical application is built on what God has done
  - 1. Since then - v1 - built on what precedes
  - 2. You have been raised with Christ - the basis (v1)
  - 3. You died, and life hidden in Christ (v3)
  - 4. Christ is our life - and He is returning (v4)
  - 5. Glory awaits us in Christ (v4; 1:27)
- C. The basic call - set your heart & mind on things above
  - 1. Set hearts on things above (v1)

- 2. Set mind on things above; not earthly (v2)
- 3. Heavenly vs. earthly - what does this mean?
  - a. Not thinking about heaven and ignoring earth!
  - b. It is an ethical focus - note vv5-15 - behavior!
  - c. It is an eternal rather than temporal focus (v4)
- 4. Live now in light of eternity - live like Christ!

## III. Putting Off Our Old Actions

- A. Metaphors for dealing with our old ways
  - 1. Put to death ‘your earthly members’ - fallen nature (v5)
  - 2. Rid yourselves/put off these things (v8)
  - 3. You have taken off your old self (v9)
- B. Our old ways - a general list of vices (vv5-9)
  - 1. Our old ways are vices - ethical wrongdoing
  - 2. List is general, representative - whatever, all such
- C. A quick look at some of our old ways
  - 1. Sexual sins - violating God’s standards (v5)
    - a. Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires
    - b. First two clearly; probably second two as well
    - c. Many sexual sins approved in ancient world
    - d. They could not give into the cultural practices
    - e. Ours is a sex soaked culture; sexual sin is glorified
    - f. We must take our standard from God’s Word

## 2. Greed - which is idolatry (v5)

- a. A real problem today - we are a greedy culture!
- b. Greed is idolatry [also Ephesians 5:5]
- c. Idolatry - that which we worship; which command us
- d. Wealth, possessions are a real temptation here!

## 3. Sins of anger & hatred (v8)

- a. Hostile attitudes towards others - anger, rage, malice
- b. Many say only actions matter - not attitudes
- c. It is easy to demonize those with whom we disagree
- d. Very tempting if others act hostile to us
- e. We must be like Jesus - turn the other cheek
- f. We must never be hostile - even when we disagree

## 4. Sins of speech (vv8-9)

- a. Improper use of tongue - slander, filthy language, lies
- b. Many say only actions matter - words
- c. Our culture is filled with terrible language
- d. Our culture slanders rampantly - so do Christians
- e. Story of false email on Pres. Obama - but he's bad!

## D. Defining ethics by God's Word - not cultural trends

1. Our culture approves of many of these vices
2. They are simply the way of the fallen world (v5,7,9)
3. These vices are under the wrath of God (v6) [Eph. 5:6]

## IV. Christ - Our Defining Reality

### A. We have put on a new self in Christ

1. Old is put off, new is put on (vv9-10)
2. This means we are new creations in Christ
3. New self is being renewed in image of God (v10)
4. An analogy back to the original creation
5. New people - don't live the old ways!
6. This is now our defining characteristic (v11)
7. Our goal - to become like Jesus - He is all!!!

### B. Our defining reality and characteristic - Christ!

1. We are so often defined by our group identity
2. These no longer define us - none of them!
3. The defining reality for us is Christ - He is all!
4. We no longer conform to our groups but Christ
5. We no longer conform to old sinful self but Christ

## V. Applying the Word

### A. How are we doing at putting off the old man?

1. Are we shaped by Christ or the world around us?
2. Does my sexual life reflect Christ - or the world?
3. How about greed, hostility, speech?
4. Am I walking like my old self - or as a new creation?

B. Do we see the Christ is our identity now?

1. Conversion is all transforming - He is everything!
2. Meditate on this - it is the key to sanctification!
3. If we struggle with the old self - look to Christ
4. Let Him captivate our heart, change our mind, nature
5. He - not any old habit - is your identity now

C. Water baptism - buried, raised with Christ - new!

## Spring Cleaning

Colossians 3:1-11

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Baptism With Refrain from On Jordan's Stormy Bank

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24