

**Colossians**  
**“A Worthy Walk”**  
**III. Main Teaching: 1:15-4:6**

3:1-4:6 **Walking in the Wisdom of Christ**

3:5-11 Practice in Christ

**3:5-7**  
**“Sanctified sex”**

**I. Intro.**

**II. Vs. 5-7 Sanctified sex**

**I. Intro.**

We come now to a “*negative section*” and most folks would prefer pastor teachers to pass by this. But if you consider me as a Doctor and you went in for a checkup and I didn’t give you all the truth with regards to your examination because I knew you don’t like negative things you wouldn’t be very happy with me. So as one old rancher once said, “*Fella, no amount of talking about the beauty of the horse, will clean out the stall!*”

This section reminds me of Irena Sendler an amazing woman of great courage who was dedicated to saving Jewish children during the Holocaust. Her father had always told her, “*If you see someone drowning you must try to rescue them, even if you cannot swim.*” As the Nazi’s swept through Poland she saw that the Jewish people were “*drowning*”, and decided to save as many Jewish children as possible. She smuggled over twenty five hundred Jewish children out of the Warsaw ghetto by drugging the babies and infants and put them in coffins, boxes or sacks to smuggle them past the Nazi’s as dead to safety. Thus in death, life was birthed, so too Paul’s words now to the Colossians in dealing with human sexuality the misuse of it!

## II. Vs. 5-7 Sanctified sex

Vs. 5 Based upon Paul's admonishment in verse 1-4 we see specifically what "old clothes" he wants the Colossians to "put off". There are five things listed here and in the Greek they all deal with human sexuality. That in its self is quite revealing as it suggests two very important things:

- a. First **God created human sexuality** and intended it not just for procreation but for pleasure as well. God has placed human sexuality as a very important part of life; it is the way in which life is brought forth. God designed sex and tied it to our senses of pleasure; we humans are prewired with a sex drive that is vastly different then the animal kingdom.
- b. Second, because the above is true **satan will continue to come in to corrupt humanity and seek to distort, pervert and enslave humanity to their passions.** As far as God and His Word is concerned human sexuality is not what should define and consume humans. Instead sexuality is to be placed in such a high regard that it is used in the freedoms that He alone has placed it in. God's design for sex is that it ought to be like fine china and brought out as often as we celebrate with joy the union He has made but people have treated it like paper plates and its use has been with everyone they meet and then just tossed to the curb. **The truth of the matter is what we desire usually determines what we will do. And what Paul is telling us is that sense we are new creations in Christ God has changed our appetites and that should have changed our actions!**

Before Paul describes these five areas that satan and the world system has corrupted of God's design, he starts with what to do with these things as he writes, "put to death your

*members which are on the earth.”* What he is saying is that the Christian is to “*put off*” *any and all sexual misbehavior which is defined as being outside God’s design.* The fact that he uses to word “*death*” suggests two things:

- a. The passion with which Paul views we Christians need to handle this*
- b. The completeness with which we Christians are to do the job*

Here then are the **five areas that the enemy of our faith has sought to enslave God’s people:**

1. ***Fornication:*** This word refers to all sexual immorality, all sexual intercourse outside of the protective bounds of marriage as defined by God as one man and one woman. Specifically this word is used elsewhere in scripture for adultery where a person has violated their covenant with God and their spouse by having sex with someone that is not his or her mate. The Word of God is clear on this, there is no debate about the use of this word and it is why Paul has already said to put off with such passion and commitment as one would use to put to death something.
2. ***Uncleanness:*** This word means “*unnatural lusts*” and refers to that which nature its self would regard as unnatural or going against nature. This is the center of much debate within our society today with regards to the **definition of marriage.** I believe the Bible and nature are in agreement with this as to what is natural as procreation just isn’t possible in same sex, sodomy, bestiality, pornography, pedophilia, etc. I don’t believe that Christians should single out the homosexual community as “*super sinners*” but I cannot agree with their agenda that makes their lifestyle on equal footing legally with that of heterosexual marriage. Since

God created and gave the gift of sex it must be used and enjoyed within the context of how He defines marriage one man and one woman. Any use beyond this will eventually cause emotional, spiritual and even physical devastation between people and the society they belong too. **God sees equal value in every life, but not in every chosen lifestyle!**

3. ***Passion***: The context here would be “*erotic lusts*”, which arouse passions especially in men who are predominately visually stimulated. Clearly pornography falls into this category but it would be also include literature, movies and even music that are geared to stimulating passions outside of how God intended human sexuality.
4. ***Evil desire***: This word refers to mental lusts, or what we use to call a “*dirty mind*”. These things are used to stimulate the kind of thought processes through the telling of dirty jokes and passing along emails that treat human sexuality and people as inanimate objects fantasizing in their body parts for self-gratification.
5. ***Covetousness***: This word is most often associated greed, money and things which money can purchase. But in this context linked with the word “*idolatry*” **Paul is using it as greed to possess another’s person’s body for their own pleasure.** The best example of this is the sorted affair of David’s children where David’s son Amnon lusted for his 1/2 sister Tamar the full sister of Absalom who became distressed over her that he became sick with lust and pretended to be ill so that she would care for him and then raped her. We see folks committing this type of idolatry all the time under the false name of “*falling in love*” but in reality they are falling in “*lust*” and unable to restrain these affections and passion give

themselves over to the worship of their passions. The sad truth is that this has become common place in literature, movies and music as it is almost exclusively given over to this idolatry.

Vs. 6 This all has become so common place like it was in the first century when Paul wrote this letter that unfortunately even Christians are practicing this behavior. Paul says there are two things wrong with Christians thinking that this is ok:

1. Vs. 6 “*The wrath of God*” is not some divine temper tantrum where He zaps folks that make Him angry. ***The Bible describes the wrath of God as God acting judicially to evil.*** It is the way a Holy God who can do no wrong reacts to an individual, society or civilization who turns their backs upon God’s laws and moral absolutes. In Romans 1:24-32 we are given a description of how God gave people over to their ***own lusts, vile passions*** and ***debased mind***. The end result is a society where moral restraints have been removed and people have been allowed what sin and evil always produce death and destruction. The freedom from restraints soon turn into bondage to said freedoms, then society collapses under the sheer wait on no moral absolutes and anarchy reigns. God’s punishment is natural consequences while folks believe that they are getting one over on God or somehow He is powerless to do anything in reality he is giving them the worst possible judgment He can by allowing them to have everything they want without having any of Him. He has not lost His holiness nor His power and judges by allowing folks to have their fill as He did the Israelites in the wilderness. In Numbers 11 they complained against God about only having Manna and wanted

- meat so God gave quail to fly over as they bashed them with clubs and gorged themselves on it until they became sick.
2. Vs. 7 The second wrong with way of thinking that it's ok to practice such immorality is that **it's going backwards**. They are behaving in a way that doesn't represent their new nature in Christ. **God's law as a form of morality to all mankind is an "Owners Manuel" from the Manufacture telling us the best way to use what He has made to live a full and joyous life.** If we violate that as those who read the "*Manuel*" and believe in the "*Manufacturer*" than we are doing so not out of ignorance but willful disobedience. Prior to trusting in God what we did was out of ignorance and should us that we were irreparably broken and hopelessly lost. But according to Romans 6:14, "*Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law but under grace.*" We have a new source of power in Christ whereby we can no say NO to our former immorality and deal with each temptation each and every time it comes up. We have a new ability that prior to a relationship with Jesus we didn't possess that enables us to say NO.