

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

3:8-11
“Lose him and let him go”

I. Intro.

II. Vs. 8-9 Six sins in “good standing”

III. Vs. 10-11 Become what you are

I. Intro.

We are still in the “*negative section*” of Paul’s letter to the Colossian church and what they need to put off. G. Campbell Morgan called this list the “*Sins that are in good standing*” on account that they are so common that most folks aren’t shocked or convicted by their use. It reminds me of Jesus words to in John 20:1-10 where Lazarus was buried in the tomb and Jesus raises him from the dead, then instructs people to “*Loose him, and let him go.*”

Raised people should not walk around in old grave clothes of their former life even if the sins they are wearing are common place! Saints, all religions boiled down to the common denominator say the same thing: “*Become what you ought to be!*” Christianity says, “**Become what you are!**” Religion demands that we become what in our natural fallen state and human effort we can never attain. But Christianity changes us from the inside out then reminds us that we can now live what He has made us to be, “*a new creation in Christ*” and He supplies the power in the Holy Spirit to do so!

II. Vs. 8-9 Six sins in “good standing”

Verse seven made it plain that walking in these ways is past tense and should not be present tense! A true Christian cannot be comfortable in habitually practicing sin. It's possible that these sins can occasionally mark a Christian's life, but they must not be a part of their walk and manner of living.

Vs. 8-9 Here Paul tells us a six other sins that we can say NO to other than five sexually immoral sins that we need to rid ourselves of. The problem is these attitudes and actions are harder than the five as we tend to justify their use in our life. I again remind you that Paul in mentioning these things is speaking to Christians to STOP because in Christ they now can! “But **NOW**”, Paul says we are “to put **OFF** all of these”! We are no longer what we once were, we are a NEW CREATION and old things have passed away. Saint's the number one reason we lose battle with our former life is because we have failed to remember who we now are in our new life! **If morally you are still diving in dumpsters then it's NOT because you prefer the cuisine, it's because you have forgotten you have a free never ending invitation to Che' Jesus that you can dine at every day!** Here then are the 6 attitudes and actions that Christians are now able to say NO to.

1. **Anger**: Anger, wrath and malice are all sins of that result from a bad attitude towards others. The word “anger” is the same as the word for wrath in verse 6 but this word in the context refers to a habitual attitude. The difference between God's wrath and man's anger has to do with character; God is holy and just and has every right to be angry at sin and to judge it. Man however is not holy and just and has no right to judge others guilty for what he also practices. We are to no longer give into to our anger and the word used here is that impetuous anger that

- quickly flies off the handle and begins name-calling and character assignation. Jesus referred to this in His sermon on the mount as “*Raca*” or calling someone a fool.
2. **Wrath**: This word is different than the one above as it means “*temper tantrums*” or violent displays that attack either by word or action another person. Saints we aren’t going to be able to avoid the temptation but we can flee the sin as the old self life is still hanging onto us but we don’t have to hang around him!
 3. **Malice**: This word means that silent, hidden hatred that waits to take out revenge in secret. It’s an attitude of ill will towards another person; if we have malice towards a person we are saddened we they are successful or happy and happy when their life is falling apart. The kind of thing that says, “*I’m not going to get mad, I’m going to get even!*”
 4. **Blasphemy**: This word is also interpreted by the word “*slander*” and is an attack on another’s character, whispering and gossiping about another, whether true or untrue, with the desire to ruin what others think of that person. Often this masquerades as spiritual concern; “*I can’t tell you about this person but I can tell you that you need to pray right away as it’s very bad!!!*” If you have deep-seated ill will toward a person, you will use every opportunity to say something bad about him.
 5. **Filthy language**: This is foul talk, crude and coarse words, or even curse words. The kind of words that slip out of your mouth when you are hurt and angry. There are some pastors now that are letting off these kinds of words from the pulpit in an attempt to be relevant to the culture they are trying to reach but there isn’t

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

6. **Lying**: Untruth breeds suspicion and destroys trust. There was a little boy in Sunday School who was asked to give a definition of what a lie is and his reply is what far too many Christians treat a lie as when he said, “***A lie is an abomination to the Lord, but a very present help in time of need!***” But that isn’t true as a lie is quickly said but hard to gain trust back once it’s discovered asked Washington D.C. the capital of lies! A lie is **ANY** misrepresentation of the truth, *even if the words are accurate*. The tone of voice, the look on the face, or a gesture of the hand can alter the meaning of a sentence. A lie can also be the motive of the heart. If my watch is wrong and I give the wrong time, that is not a lie. Lying involves the intent to deceive for the purpose of personal gain. There is an old proverb that asks a riddle, “*When is the half of something a whole?*” the answer is..., “*Half a truth is always a whole lie.*” One old pastor was preaching on Acts 5 about the lie of Ananias and Sapphira when he said, “*If God struck every person dead for lying, where would I be?*” the congregation broke out into a laugh realizing that he had just called himself a liar until he continued, “*Why I’d be right herepreaching to an empty church!*”

III. Vs. 10-11 Become what you are

Vs. 10-11 When we put off the “*old man*” we must also put on the “*new man*”. The Greek verbs for “*put off and put on*” indicate a once-for-all action. And the word “*renewed*”

literally means being constantly renewed. The context of these verses is linked to what Paul has just said and the fact that there is NOW not a reason to continue in these behaviors. Some folks might object to the term “put on” as it seems to indicate playing a part or a role. But friend **you aren’t playing a part if you are still in character after the curtain has come down!** Consider the old actor and romantic leading man actor Cary Grant. Born in 1904 in Bristol England he was anything but the “*Mr. Sophistication*” as he was known for. He had a ruffian cockney accent for most of his early life and got into acting as an easy way of making some money. But as he began to play the part of a sophisticated romantic ladies’ man during his 70 movie the suave personality stuck. When asked by a reporter if he had always been suave and sophisticated he laughed and said, “*I just played the part so frequently that it became me as I put on this character and I became the person I played.*” But the trouble was that when the curtain came down Cary Grant went back to a ruffian as he had five marriages, battled depression and became a raging alcoholic all the while people in the audience believed he was “Mr. Sophistication”. The trouble was that “*He just put on a role that at the end of the day he just took off and put back on what he had taken off!*”

Vs. 11 The new man is part of a family, which favors no race, nationality, class, culture or ethnicity. It only favors Jesus, because in this new family, Christ is all and in all. We can’t say that I do things because I’m of this heritage or that ancestry as the Old Man has passed away and behold we are brand new and Christ is all and in all! All such all backgrounds of class, national origin, training, education, whatever it may be, is all set aside because you are now linked to Christ. We look to Jesus the “*author and finisher of our faith*”! In 1 Thessalonians 5:4-7 Paul said, “*But you brethren are not in darkness so*

that the Day of the Lord should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness, so then, let us not be like others who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled, for those who sleep, sleep at night and those who get drunk, get drunk at night, but since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breast-plate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet, for God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.”