

Opening Question

When is the last time you were exposed to something related to sexual sin on radio, TV, a magazine or a conversation and you chose to turn it off or change the topic because you were convicted? How often does this happen in your life?

Read Together

Colossians 3:5-17

Big Idea

God desires that we live within the banks of His rules for sexuality and desire.

Discussion Questions

1. What do the things we are to “*put to death*” have in common? (verse 5)
2. After reading verses 5 and 6, have different group members read Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:1-4, 1 Corinthians 6:18 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5. How would you summarize what God has to say about sexual sin?
3. Our old ways of reacting are compared to a garment we took off at conversion (verses 8-10). Why is each type of behaviour inconsistent with our new life in Christ?
4. How were the Colossian believers called to clothe themselves? (3:12-17)
5. What resources does Paul suggest for changing sinful habits in Christ? (verses 9-11)
6. How can we keep God's perspective on immorality and greed when our culture accepts them as the norm? What are some ways you have found helpful in keeping yourself pure?
7. From what Paul writes in this passage, what are some of things that are involved in replacing old habits with new ones?

Challenge

This week commit to being vigilant in looking for the sins Paul mentions to “pop us” or revisit you in your daily life. When you realize that you are being caught by one of them, stop and confess it as wrong and as sin and then choose to replace that sin with a better choice, one of the ones Paul suggests in this passage.

Prayer

Ask a simple question before you go to prayer as a group. Simply ask: *For how many of us is one of the sins raised by Paul an issue?* And then pray as a group for one another. Pray that each person would be empowered by the Spirit to live a “Put off... Put on” lifestyle as Paul calls us to.

Next Step

If the words of Colossians 3 with its “Put off...Put on” dynamic have caught your attention, you are likely to appreciate a short book entitled *TrueFaced: Trust God and Others With Who You Really Are*. In it, the authors tell us not to try to take care of our sins, but how to realize and enter into the fact that Jesus has already done this on the cross and allow Him – living in Him – to conquer our sin. A very valuable read for those who will take the time.

