

OUTLINE

Be Killing Sexual Sin Before It Kills You - Colossians 3:5-7

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Colossians 3:5-7 ESV

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

Introduction and Background

- we are in a “sex crazed world” and a survey like this one only solidifies this statement!

Pew Research reports, “Half of U.S. Christians say casual sex between consenting adults is sometimes or always acceptable”

This survey reports:

Many Christian traditions disapprove of premarital sex. And even though Christians in the United States hold less permissive views than religiously unaffiliated Americans about dating and sex, most say it's acceptable in at least some circumstances for consenting adults to have sex outside of marriage.

Half of Christians say casual sex – defined in the survey as sex between consenting adults who are not in a committed romantic relationship – is sometimes or always acceptable. Six-in-ten Catholics (62%) take this view, as do 56% of Protestants in the historically Black tradition, 54% of mainline Protestants and 36% of evangelical Protestants.

Among those who are religiously unaffiliated, meanwhile, the vast majority (84%) say casual sex is sometimes or always acceptable, including roughly nine-in-ten atheists (94%) and agnostics (95%) who say this.

- these are American statistics, I would argue that Canadian church goers would not be much different if not much more accepting of sexual _____

- the culture in Canada over the last few decades has certainly changed and the _____ in the Canadian churches has certainly changed

- how did we get here? I truly do not know, although I have several ideas

- the better question for us as a church is “where do we _____ from here?”

- should we allow sexual immorality to become a “respectable sin” in the church because many self-professing Christians think sexual immorality is OK?

- absolutely not!

- in this passage we get clear direction from Paul the apostle on the topic of sexually _____

- if we cave to the _____ of Canadian society, and many churches goers do, the warning in this passage is clear, we will get what we deserve which is God's _____

- the book of Colossians was written to deal with a group of false _____ in the midst of the Colossian church
- these false teachers were preaching that following their man-made _____ could bring fullness of _____
- they were teaching that you had to celebrate the _____ festivals, eat and drink the right foods in order to be a _____ Christian
- these false teachers were practicing harsh treatment of the _____ and relying not upon the Word of God but on _____ that they had seen
- Paul makes the bold claim that these false teachings do not stop the indulgence of the _____ (Colossians 2:23)

- we are now in the 2nd part of this section on basic _____ living found in Colossians 3:1-4:1
- in Colossians 3:1-4 Paul commanded these believers to do two things
 - 1) to seek the _____ things
 - 2) to think about the above things not on things of the _____

- _____ are these “above things”?
- they are the wonderful biblical _____ that are found in this passage
- 3:1 - Jesus is Christ is _____ at the right hand of God where
- He is _____ with the Father and interceding for His people
- 3:3 – the Christian has “died” and their “life is _____ with Christ in God”
- the Christian has _____ in their salvation because of the work of Christ
- 3:4 – when Christ _____ Jesus will take believers to be with Himself forever in His presence
- now we enter a new paragraph where Paul _____ these Christians on _____ purity!

Brief Outline:

- 1) (3:5) Put to Death**
- 2) (3:6) Pure Wrath**
- 3) (3:7) Past Life**

1) (3:5) Put to Death

(3:5a) Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:

- we have another “therefore” in Colossians 3:5, so we need to _____ the question again, “what is the “therefore” _____ for?”
- this “therefore” reminds us again of what Paul has just said in Colossians _____
- Colossians 3:3-4** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- Paul reminds these Christians that they have “ _____ ”
- Paul has already reminded them of this truth _____ previous times

Colossians 2:12 having been _____ with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:20 If with Christ you _____ to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations--

- since they have died with Christ there are many glorious _____ that they can experience in Jesus Christ
- they are dead to the _____ of sin
- they are dead to the elemental spirits and this means that the _____ forces no longer have authority over them

- they have passed from death to _____
- they are set free from sin's _____ through Jesus Christ and have been given _____ through Jesus Christ
- having received this new life in Jesus Christ they are to put to _____ the things that are earthly within them

- they are to put to death _____
- since they have died and have been delivered from the bondage of sin they are to eradicate the _____ sin in their life
- this phrase "_____ to death" can also mean to put an _____ to
- because of the grace of Christ and Him saving us we are to _____ sinning, we are to eliminate the sin and to _____ our mind with the precious _____ of Jesus Christ

- Paul also talks about putting to _____ sin in the book of Galatians with the use of the word "crucify"

Galatians 2:19 For through the law I _____ to the law, so that I might _____ to God.²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Paul defines what these _____ things are in this verse!
- they all relate to _____ immorality, greed and _____

(3:5b) sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- this is what we call a "vice list" which is a list of several sins that the person who is in Christ Jesus must put to death

1) Sexual Immorality

- this word is defined in the Greek dictionary as "**unlawful sexual intercourse, prostitution, unchastity, fornication**"
- this would include many forms of sexual activity _____ of marriage
- this would include pre-marital sex, same sex activity and any sexual activity that is outside the confines of biblical _____

- biblical marriage is defined as one biological man _____ to one biological woman till death do them part

2) Impurity

- this word has the context of a state of _____ corruption
- but here it refers specifically to _____ with regards to sexual activity
- this would mean any impure _____ outside the confines of biblical marriage

3) Passion

- this word can mean any kind of strong emotional _____, even anger, but in of this verse it relates to the sinful sexual activity
- passion is the strong sexual _____ that Paul describes as he instructs the Thessalonians to be sexually pure

1 Thessalonians 4:5 not in the _____ of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

4) Evil Desire

- this refers to _____ relationships or sexual activities that are _____ of biblical marriage
- for obvious reasons this teaching by Paul is very controversial
- the Canadian culture has continued to preach that you should _____ who you want to love
- the Canadian culture has continued to preach if it feels _____ than you can do it
- but the Canadian culture is directly _____ to God's teaching on this topic
- the other thing we need to consider is that the Canadian culture would have been very _____ to the Colossian environment
- in fact the Colossian environment quite possibly could have been even more sexually active than our sex crazed _____ culture
- we know that Paul described the city of _____ as extremely sexually immoral
- sexual _____ was the norm in that city at that time (1 Corinthians 5-6)

- but Paul mentions two other _____ that are included here!

5) Covetousness

- most of us know the _____ commandment which is "you shall not _____"
- this means that God commands us to be _____ with what God has given us and we are not sinfully _____ what others have

- essentially it means we need to find _____ in God and find satisfaction in Jesus Christ _____ of fulfilling sexually immoral desires

6) Idolatry

- Paul defines these 5 sins (_____ immorality, impurity, passion, evil _____, and covetousness) as idolatry
- we all know the 2nd command which says "you shall not _____ idols"
- what Paul means is that if you _____ in any of these sins then you have committed idolatry
- an _____ does not have to be an object made of wood or stone that is _____

- _____ in our lives can take many forms but in this case the idolatry is the _____ of sex and _____ fulfillment

2) (3:6) Pure Wrath

(3:6) On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

- now some people are not going to like Colossians 3:6 because this verse explains that a _____ God calls all people to _____ for their actions
- this verse teaches us about the _____ of God
- much of the Old Testament teaches us the holiness of God
- the Lord is a holy, exalted God and who is _____ sin

Deuteronomy 32:4 "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and _____ iniquity, just and upright is he.

1 Samuel 2:2 "There is none _____ like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

Habakkuk 1:13 You who are of purer eyes than to see _____ and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?

- _____ the Lord is a holy God he cannot stand the sight of _____ or stand wicked acts that violate His holiness
- because the Lord is good, righteous, upright and _____, the Lord sends His _____ upon people who reject His grace
- if people _____ in sin, reject Christ and do not _____ the wrath of God will come upon them at the final judgment

- God's final _____ and hell are very controversial topics for some people
- I remember preaching on this topic years ago and someone walked out of the sermon when I said "not everyone is going to heaven, some people will experience the _____ of God because they have _____ Jesus Christ"
- the person who walked out of the church was upset about this _____ that is talked about hundreds of times in the Bible
- even Jesus talked about the serious consequences of _____

Matthew 18:8 And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal _____.

- but many people want there to be a hell, but that _____ is only reserved for people who upset them or disagree with them
- do you remember when I talked about how some people want hell for people who have upset _____ but do not want hell for people who _____ a holy God?
- we looked at several tweets published by people who wanted people to go to hell!
- I have some more tweets talking about _____ hell upon people who have offended _____ with the use of the phrase "a special place in hell"

- 1) Amy writes "There's a special place in hell for people that promise you things unprovoked and still don't deliver"
- 2) Fire Hot writes "People who borrow money and do not return. I wish they have a special place in hell."
- 3) SneezingWithWetMascara writes "If you stress me out to the point I have to take a nap, which will mess up my sleep schedule for like a week, there's a special place in hell for you."

- people _____ there to be hell but they want hell for the people who do wrong things in _____ eyes and not in the eyes of a holy God

- this reality of God's _____ points us to the wonderful work of the Lord Jesus upon the _____

- Jesus takes the wrath of God, on the cross so that we can have _____ life and _____ of our sin

- Paul explains this great _____ of Christ in 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from _____ to serve the living and _____ God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who _____ us from the wrath to come.

- Jesus Christ bearing the _____ of God, so that the Christian can be delivered from sin's judgment, _____ the great love of God the Father and Jesus Christ

3) (3:7) Past Life

(3:7) In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

- the "in these" could refer to Colossians 3:5 the "sexual immorality, impurity, _____, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry"

- or the "in these" could refer to Colossians 3:8 the "_____, wrath, malice, _____, and obscene talk from your mouth"

- but likely the "in these" refers to _____ Colossians 3:5 and 3:8

- these were the _____ behaviors that once characterized their lives

- here we see that the Colossians were _____ in sin and living in sin

- these Colossians were _____ like the rest of us, they were _____

- Paul has already said that these Colossians were _____ in sin in their "pre-Christ condition"

Colossians 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and _____ in mind, doing evil deeds,

Colossians 2:13 And you, who were _____ in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh

- these are sins that these Christians walked and _____ in when they were outside of Christ

- these were the _____ and attitudes of their past

- because Jesus had _____ them they were no _____ to walk in sin and no longer to live for sin!

Application

1) Delight In Christ

- if you happen to watch TV, you will see that society and the _____ is trying to preach to you that the fullness of life is _____ in sexual intimacy

- but we need to remind ourselves of the _____ that the fullness of life is _____ in Jesus Christ

- what is at the foundation of _____ sin or putting to death sin in our lives?

- the foundation is _____ ourselves of the fullness of life that is _____ in Christ

1:5 – Jesus _____ hope for the believer in Jesus Christ

1:13 – the believer is _____ from the domain of darkness and God _____ the Christian to the kingdom of Jesus Christ

- because of Christ we have gone from _____ to _____

1:20 – Jesus Christ is _____ over salvation and He _____ the Christian back to God

- Jesus Christ bears the _____ of God on the Cross so that the Christian can have _____ with God

1:22 – in Jesus, the Christian can be _____ with God and before God they are _____ holy, blameless and above reproach

2:13 – God makes alive those who are _____ in sin

- through Jesus Christ all our sins are _____

2:14 – Jesus Christ has _____ this record of sin

- this document that records our sins has been _____, it is as though we have _____ sinned

3:3 – our life in _____ with God in Jesus Christ

- this means we have _____ in our salvation and we are _____ to Christ

3:4 – when Christ _____ at His 2nd coming the believer will be _____ with Him in Heaven

- we have a wonderful _____ in Jesus Christ

- there are two options before us today

1) the eternal _____ of enjoying Christ and obedience to Him

2) the _____ pleasures of sin that destroy our soul

- _____ that the Lord offers you a life on a lake with beautiful scenery, perfect weather and you are catching lots of fish to enjoy for dinner

- but yet you _____ to hang out at the Dryden dump to look at the trash, the fine smells and forage for food

- this is metaphorically what we do when we choose satisfaction in _____ instead of eternal _____ in Jesus Christ

- let us pursue Christ and have _____ in Jesus!

2) Fight Sexual Sin

- whenever it comes to controversial issues like the topic of _____ the emotions can take over and people can be tempted to do away with biblical _____
- when we examine this issue of sexuality we must look at it through the same lens as we look at every other issue, through the _____ of Jesus Christ
- if we are going to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, then we must follow Christ in _____ area of our life and that _____ sexual purity
- if you look at Canadian culture and look for _____ on this topic you are going to be totally _____ because Canadian culture and its ideas change like the _____
- if Jesus Christ has _____ you from sin, then you are called to put to death or _____ sin till the day He takes us to glory
- because of the grace of Christ and Him saving us we are to _____ sinning, we are to eliminate the sin and to _____ our mind with the precious truths of Jesus Christ
- some might think that they are saved by _____ so let's _____ sinning so that grace can increase even more!
- how about no!

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to _____ in sin that grace may abound? ² By _____ means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

- let us live our lives _____ around Jesus Christ by putting to death or _____ the lustful passions and be pure and _____ with our actions and behaviors

- hear how Paul _____ those who live in Rome on how to live a _____ life!

Romans 6:12-14 ¹² Let _____ sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you _____ its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but _____ grace.

- we are commanded not to offer our _____ to sin, therefore we are commanded to be sexually pure in our _____

- we commanded not to offer our _____ to sin, therefore we are commanded to be sexually pure in what we _____ on the TV or internet

- we commanded not to offer our _____ to sin, therefore we are commanded to be _____ pure abstaining in singleness or by being faithful to our spouse

- let us keep our eyes _____ upon Christ and His work and by the power of the Holy Spirit put to _____ or do away with the sin that _____ in us!

Next Week: Colossians 3:8-11