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Group Guide

Pursue Christ: Put Sin to Death

March 23, 2025

Main Passage: Colossians 3:1-11

Theological Theme

When we are saved, we are called to actively seek Jesus and leave our sin behind. This requires personal sacrifice and hard work, but the Holy Spirit is present in the life of every believer, walking with us and molding us to be more like Jesus.

Introduction

- ? What are some areas where it is difficult to “hit a bullseye” in daily life?
- ? What kinds of things cause us to miss the mark when it comes to following Jesus daily?

1. Things Above (Colossians 3:1-4)

So far in our trip through Colossians, Paul has shared encouragement and doctrinal teachings. In chapter 3, he made a transition to practical instruction.

- ? What does it mean to “seek the things above” (v. 1) or “set your minds on things above” (v. 2)?
- ? How is that different than setting our minds on “earthly things” (v. 2)?
- ? Application: Think about what you’re currently seeking. Where are you seeking things above, and where could you grow?

2. Put to Death (Colossians 3:5-9)

This portion of our text deals with the idea of sin. You’ll remember we earlier defined sin as missing the mark and falling short of God’s will and plan for us. Sin is a problem because it separates us from God and acts as a roadblock to God’s good plan for our lives. Jesus said, “If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away” (Matthew 5:29). Gouging out your eye requires radical sacrifice, and Jesus meant that we should be willing to make radical sacrifices to kick sin out of our lives.

- ❓ What does it mean to “put to death what belongs to our earthly nature” (v. 5)?
- ❓ Look at the sin Paul outlined in verses 5 and 8-9. How do we see these today? What do they look like and why are they a problem?
- ❓ Application: What are some ways we can begin to put sin to death in our lives today?

3. The New Self (Colossians 3:10-11)

The process of moving away from sin in our lives and actively seeking after God is a continual one—it requires ongoing dedication and sacrifices—but the process of salvation is immediate. When we accept Jesus into our lives, we receive “the new self” Paul mentioned in verse 10. Now that we are new creations in Christ, we are “being renewed” (v. 10). This is both active and ongoing. We aren’t renewed and perfected all at once. It’s a continuous work by the Holy Spirit in our lives. We are in the process of “being renewed” (v. 10) or being molded to look more like Jesus in the way we live our lives. This process of being “conformed to the image of his Son” (Romans 8:29) is God’s desire for our lives. He causes all things in our lives to work toward this purpose (Romans 8:28).

- ❓ What is the “new self” we receive in Jesus?
- ❓ How does Jesus break down dividing walls of identity among His people (v. 11)?
- ❓ Application: In verse 11, Paul spoke about divisions the Colossian church faced in their everyday lives. What divisions exist for us in 2025? What are some ways we can help bring more unity in our community?

Conclusion

- ❓ Consider Paul’s instruction to focus on things above rather than on “earthly things” (v. 2). What changes can we make to shift our perspective this direction?
- ❓ In what ways can we actively seek out the renewal mentioned in verse 10? Why is it important we do this together and not in isolation?
- ❓ How can we as a group support and encourage each other as we work to fight sin and focus on heavenly things, better orienting our lives toward Jesus?