

RESPONDING TO DESIRE AND SIN, IN CHRIST

COLOSSIANS 3:5-11

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MARCH 9, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:5-11

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. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What would the world be like if we directed our anger against our sin, rather than against things about which we disagree, or against each other?

SERMON RECAP

In Christ, there is a different response to desire available to us.

- You are accepted and then you obey.
- You are a new person and you have a new relationship with your desires.
- Freedom in the Christian life is the ability to walk in step with Jesus and do what you were intended to do.
- Every desire that you find in you is not a desire to be satisfied. Some desires need to be crucified.
- Grace meets you right where you are. Remember that growth in the Christian life is a process.
- Spiritual growth (spiritual change) like producing fruit is a process that is often slow, gradual, and yet inevitable. If you are connected to the source of change, Jesus, you will grow.

In Christ, there is a different response to sin available to us.

- A proper response, the right reflex to what Christ has done for you, is a hatred of sin and resolve to kill it.
- Our temptation is to leave our sin unchecked. We can be so passive and tolerate our sin as if it's some sort of pet.
- Put to death sexual immorality: impurity, passion, and covetousness.
- Put away anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Colossians 3:5-11 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe. What specific religious practices and beliefs was Paul addressing in this passage? How does he describe their inadequacy?
 - What idolatrous practices of verse 5 connect to the sinful practices we must put away in verse 8?
 - The old self “lies” (verse 9). How is the new self “being renewed” (verse 10)?
 - What are different divisions presented in verse 11?
 - How would you summarize Colossians 3:5-11 in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Read Galatians 5:22-24 and John 15:15
 - What does it mean to ‘crucify the flesh with its passions and desires’?
 - What does the world teach about responding to desires (sexuality, power, financial, etc.)?
 - How does a Christian have a new relationship with his or her desires?

- What are the fruits of the Spirit and how do they illustrate spiritual growth?
 - How does connection with Jesus (the Vine) enable you (the branches) to bear fruit?
2. Read Proverbs 6:27 and Romans 1:28
- What does it mean to be passive and tolerant of sin?
 - What does it mean to hate sin and to resolve to kill it?
 - How is sexual immorality related to impurity, passion (lust), and covetousness?
 - Why does a Christian have a new response to sexual immorality?
 - How does a Christian's interpersonal relations change with regard to anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Responding to desires.
 - What would those viewing your life see in your desire for Jesus?
 - What victories has Jesus given you over your earthly desires?
 - Where might you still need help with battling earthly desires? Give examples.
 - What fruits of the Spirit would others see in your life and which ones might be lacking?
 - How can your Church Group support you to grow in your desire for Jesus?
2. Responding to sin.
 - Where might you be prone to being passive or tolerant of sin in your life or around you? What “pet sins” might you be feeding and nurturing?
 - How would others know that you hate sin and that you want to stamp it out?
 - Where might sexual immorality, impurity, passion (lust), or covetousness be creeping into your life?
 - Sin certainly interferes in our relationship with the Lord – where might sin be interfering in your relationships with others?
 - How can your Church Group pray to help and support you as you face your responses to sin within you and around you?

LEADER NOTES

CHURCH FAMILY MEETING | Please join us at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 12 at mcleanbible.org/churchfamilymeeting to celebrate what the Lord is doing here at MBC! There will also be the opportunity to vote in new members. For any questions or concerns, please email your location pastor.