

Discovery Group - Colossians

(5) *Put Off the Sinful Nature*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Colossians 2:23 - 3:11

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What does it mean to set your hearts on things above?
What are practical ways you can do this?
- How do the images of circumcision and baptism teach us to overcome sin?
- This passage gives some descriptions of our sinful nature.
What stands out to you? What is the role of God's wrath?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

- Spend time each morning meditating on 3:1-11. Ask the Lord what you need to cut off from your life.
- Read 3:12-17 several times this week.

Put Off the Sinful Nature

In Colossians 2, Paul warns against adding to Jesus. The chapter concludes with this statement, “Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom... but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence” (2:23). So this is the real issue. The false teachers who are adding to the gospel are concerned with ‘restraining sensual indulgence.’ As it happens, so is Paul. Paul’s Spirit-inspired concern includes people actually living better, more holy, lives. The point is, though, that it is Jesus who makes this happen. Rigidly enforcing the rules or receiving special revelations or worshipping in just the right way don’t get us there. They ‘lack any value’ in ridding our lives of sin.

But there is a way. The secret lies in the two pictures we saw in chapter 2: circumcision and baptism. Cutting off. Death and resurrection. “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” (3:1). Jesus gave you new life. Therefore, you can set your hearts on things above. “But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these...” (3:8). There are things that must be cut off, removed. These are the deeds and attitudes of the sinful nature.

You can now “put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature.” (3:5). Jesus is enough. He has made you holy. He has reconciled you to God. He has cut off the sinful nature. You have been buried and raised up. Because of all this, you now have the power to say no to sin. You do not avoid these behaviors in order to be saved or reconciled or loved. But because you are saved and reconciled and loved, because you have been given new life, you git rid of the old. Cut it off. Put it to death. What are these earthly ways you are to kill off?

Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires Greed
Anger and rage Malice and slander Filthy language and lying

That used to describe you - but no more! God’s wrath is coming because of these behaviors and attitudes. Rid yourself of them! You are learning to reflect the image of your Creator. You are new! Whatever your background or previous identity was, now you are a child of God and you are free, and “Christ is all that matters.” (3:11).