

LESSON 4

MAKING A CHANGE

COLOSSIANS 3:1–17



1 How have you broken a bad habit? How did others help you?



Read Colossians 3:1–17 and the following notes:

☐ 3:1ff ☐ 3:2, 3 ☐ 3:4 ☐ 3:8–10 ☐ 3:12–17 ☐ 3:14, 15 ☐ 3:16 ☐ 3:17

2 Why do you think Paul included particular sins in his list?

3 How is greed a form of idolatry?

4 According to Paul, what is it that enables the believer to choose righteous behavior over sin?

5 Paul urges us to “let heaven fill [our] thoughts” (3:2). How does a Christian avoid being so heavenly minded as to be of no earthly good?



6 If we have become new people in Christ, why do we still sin? Why is it so difficult to choose to do right?

7 The note on 3:12–17 presents a strategy for effective Christian living. What practical steps can a person take to implement each suggested action?

Paul instructed the Colossians to put off the old life and put on the new. This summarizes how to live a life pleasing to God, but it doesn't happen easily or naturally. Putting to death our desires requires great struggle. Living a holy life is a ferocious battle against our earthly nature. But it is a battle with a strategy as simple as changing clothes—putting off the old and putting on the new. We may feel overwhelmed at times, but we never have to feel outmaneuvered. When you find a bad habit difficult to break, or when your thought life seems out of control, remember to set your mind and heart on God's priorities—and keep up the fight.

8 To what extent are the sins Paul listed still a problem in the church today? Why?



9 What happens when we serve God out of a sense of duty rather than out of genuine love? How can we avoid falling into this trap?

10 What does 3:11–17 teach us regarding the purpose of fellowship, worship, and discipleship in the church?

11 How should realizing that we are Christ's representatives affect our attitudes and actions?

12 Identify some aspect of your behavior that has been difficult to change and is compromising your Christian life. What can you do to put this desire or habit to death? Who can support you?



A What does it mean that our life is now “hidden with Christ in God” (3:3)? How should that truth affect our life?

B What can believers expect from the coming wrath of God? What can non-believers expect?

C Paul stated that there were no divisions, distinctions, or differences between people in the church. How does your church reflect this truth? What are the implications for how you should treat other Christians?

D In this passage, Christians are referred to as God’s chosen people. How do we qualify for this status that was first given to the Jews? What does it mean to be chosen by God?

E What is the “peace that comes from Christ” (3:15)? How does his peace relate to conflicts between believers?

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