Colossians 3:5-7 - “Put Evil Desires to Death”
Study Guide

Passage Outline

1.

What you should put to death: Evil Desires v. 5

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:

1.

Deeds

sexual immorality,

impurity,

1.

(Stemming from) Desires

passion,

evil desire,

and covetousness,

which is idolatry.

1.

Why you should put them to death: God's Evaluation and Response v. 6

6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

1.

How you should put them to death: In Your Walk and Your Life v. 7

7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

For Discussion

1.

"Therefore" points us back to the ground of Christian character in vv. 1-4. On what foundation is Christian character grounded?

2.

Paul connects the exalted doctrine in vv. 1-4 with very practical exhortations in vv. 5ff. How *should* Christian doctrine and the Christian life relate to one another in your experience? Do you tend to prefer one over the other?

3.

How does Paul's command "Put to death" build on what he said in Col. 2:20 and 3:3?

4.

"What is earthly in you" is literally "your members that are on the earth." "Members" literally means "body parts." In light of Col. 2:11, and Eph. 4:22, 24, are these "members" spiritual or physical? Are our physical body parts themselves sinful? Are they used for sin? See Rom. 6:12-13; Matt. 5:29-30.

5.

Where do evil desires like those listed come from? Consider James 3:14-15.

6.

The list of evil desires moves from specific to general, from deed to desire. For each item in the list, give an example of a situation in which you could be tempted to give in to that sin, and what practical actions would be the right way to put that sin to death.

7.

Is every desire evil? Consider Luke 17:22, 22:15; 1 Thess. 2:17; Heb. 6:11.

8.

In what ways is greed equal to idolatry? Consider Matt. 6:24.

9.

Can a believer receive God's wrath? See 1 Thess. 1:9-10; Heb. 12:6-7.

10.

What consequences of sin can a believer receive? See 1 Pet. 2:11; James 4:1-3, 1:15.

11.

What are the eternal consequences of unrepentant sin? See Gal. 6:8; 1 Cor. 6:9; Rev. 21:8.

12.

Think literally about the path your feet take during the course of a normal day. At what points do you face a temptation to give in to evil desires? That's where you need to decide to " put to death" those desires!

13.

What desires tend to drive you during a normal day? Which are good? Which are evil? Remember which ones are evil the next time you face them!