

Colossians 3:5-11

Review the first 4 verses – How are you doing in setting your heart and mind above?

5 Anything that isn't "life" must go. "your members (parts) that are on the earth" is the literal meaning. Kill anything in your life that does not glorify God. Reminiscent of Jesus warning to cut off any part of the body that offends. Romans 8:13

C. F. D. Moule expressed it this way: The Christian must kill self-centredness and regard as dead all private desires and ambitions. There must be in his life a radical transformation of the will and a radical shift of the centre. Everything which would keep him from fully obeying God and fully surrendering to Christ must be surgically excised. -Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT). Do you think that is overstating it? Is that what Paul is saying?

Sexual immorality-*porneia* Uncleanliness -*akatharsia* Passion -*pathos* The Roman world had no restraint on fulfilling sexual passion, similar to today. The Christian idea of chastity is the greatest deterrent to Christianity for many. However, most people can see that the indiscriminant use of sex for personal pleasure with anyone and anywhere, though exciting, soon dulls the pleasure of it and empties it of real pleasure.

lustful desires of the wrong things - *epithumia* and *kakos*

covetousness - *pleonexia* from two Greek words "to have more" insatiable desire, never enough, ruthless self-seeking. The opposite would be a desire to be generous. The thing the person is after whether money, position, or an object is valued above God so all their time is spent toward that end. Idolatry is the desire to get things from God rather than to give one's self to God's service.

6 Ephesians 5:6 Some manuscripts add, "upon the sons of disobedience". God must/will judge these evils. Why must He do so? Sowing and reaping - wrath is part of the moral order of the universe. Romans 2:6-8

7 Who among us has not lived for selfish pleasure, coveting others things, putting things before God (idolatry), had impure thoughts?

8 When baptized, the person took off his old clothes and put on a white robe when they came up out of the water. The word used here "put away" is to take off clothing. All these old ways and habits must be taken off like dirty clothes.

wrath - *orge* and anger - *thumos* *Thumos* is the burst of rage that quickly dies down whereas *orge* is the slow burning, unquenchable anger. Malice - *kakia*, all pervading evil *Blasphemia* -insulting and slanderous speaking in general, probably here directed toward one's fellow man. Indecent language - *aischrologia*, foul language. Before saying anything ask yourself if it is true, necessary and kind. It should also be pure and wholesome. When emotions are strong we must be extra cautious to hold our tongue. James 1:19

9 To lie to one another would be to put back on your old, stinky, dirty clothing.

10 Instead we put on the new self that is continually being transformed from glory to glory until we attain to the image of Christ when we see Him face to face. 2Corinthians 3:18

11 The Greeks were the aristocrats, the Jews thought they were the special children of God, barbarians were all who did not speak Greek, and Scythians were considered even worse than barbarians, slaves were not even considered human, and free men - all those barriers come down in Jesus who makes all who receive Him one. The barriers were national, religious, cultural, and class; and all were done away for those who followed Jesus.
Ephesians 1:22-23

Do you think of daily experiences in terms

Of things above and below?

Of life (Christ) and death?

Of old clothes and new clothes?

How would this way of thinking relate to the false teaching that was threatening the purity of the Colossian church?