

Who Are You Becoming in Christ?

Colossians 3:5-11

February 15, 2026

BIG IDEA

Because believers have been given new life in Christ, they are called to decisively put away their old sinful ways and continually live out their new identity in him. The Christian life is not about managing sin but mortifying it and walking in the transforming power of Christ.

In Colossians 3:5–11, Paul moves from identity to action, calling believers to “put to death” everything that belongs to their earthly nature. This is not a gradual suggestion but a decisive response flowing from the new life they already have in Christ.

Paul lists sins that once defined life before Jesus — sexual immorality, impurity, sinful desires, greed, anger, slander, and lying — and reminds believers that these practices no longer fit who they are now.

Instead of continuing in the old life, Christians are to “put off” the old self like dirty clothes and “put on” the new self that is being continually renewed into the image of God.

When believers live “ALL IN” for Christ, their lives reflect his transforming work — breaking old patterns, restoring God’s image, and uniting people across every background in Christ alone.

THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:5-11 (ESV)

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.

MAIN THEME

Paul teaches that following Jesus involves a decisive break from the old sinful life. Believers are not called to tolerate sin but to put it to death because it no longer belongs to who they are in Christ.

This new life requires intentionally “putting off” old habits and attitudes that once controlled them — including sinful desires, destructive anger, harmful speech, and dishonesty.

At the same time, Christians are to “put on” the new self — a life that is continually renewed through growing knowledge of Christ and shaped into God’s image.

In Christ, all human barriers are removed. Every believer shares the same new identity, the same transforming grace, and the same call to live fully surrendered to Jesus.

True spiritual growth happens when believers are killing sin daily and allowing Christ to continually renew their hearts and minds.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Putting Sin to Death

Colossians 3:5–6; Romans 6:11–14

- What does it mean to “put to death” sinful behavior?
- Why is sin described as something that must be killed, not managed?
- Which sins does Paul highlight first, and why are they dangerous?
- How can believers take decisive action against sin today?

2. Putting Off the Old Life

Colossians 3:7–9; Ephesians 4:22–25

- Why does Paul compare sinful habits to dirty clothes that must be removed?
- How do anger, speech, and dishonesty damage relationships and witness?
- What old patterns did Christ rescue you from?
- What practical steps help you walk away from your former life?

3. Putting On the New Self



Colossians 3:10; Romans 12:2

- What does continual renewal look like in everyday Christian life?
- How does growing in knowledge of Christ lead to transformation?
- In what ways is God restoring his image in believers?
- How can spiritual disciplines help renew your mind and heart?

4. Living United in Christ

Colossians 3:11; Galatians 3:28

- What divisions does Paul say are removed in Christ?
- Why is unity a powerful testimony of the gospel?
- How should new identity shape how we treat others?
- Where is God calling Ridgewood to live more visibly as one in Christ?

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us new life in Christ. Help us put to death the sins that no longer belong to us and walk in the freedom you provide. Renew our hearts and minds daily so we reflect your image more clearly. Unite our church in Christ and help us live fully "ALL IN" for you. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- Romans 6:5-14 — Dead to sin, alive to God
- Ephesians 4:22-24 — Putting off the old and putting on the new
- Romans 12:1-2 — Renewing the mind
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 — New creation in Christ
- Galatians 5:16-25 — Living by the Spirit

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Clothe yourselves with compassion, humility, and love as Christ shapes your new life.
Colossians 3:12-17

