

COLOSSIANS 3:5-11

THE CHASE: OUR DESIRE FOR ENOUGH & JESUS' PURSUIT OF US

SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE — MAY 03

OPEN

In this week's passage from Colossians 3, Paul continues unpacking what it practically means to seek Christ and live in light of our new identity in Him. In these verses and the ones to come, Paul becomes more specific in the application of the gospel to our spiritual growth. READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-11.

DISCUSS

1. In verse 5, Paul calls us to "put to death" sin in our life. The Puritan theologian John Owen called this process of our spiritual growth as "the mortification of sin" and Pastor Charlie gave us a great analogy from weeding and landscaping.
 - a. Can you think of a time when you were just pulling off the "flower" of a specific sin in your life but not getting at "the root"?
 - b. Granted we all continue to stumble, can you think of a habitual sin that you got to "the root" of in your life? What did it take to get to "the root"?
 - c. What has changed in your life since cutting that sin off at the source?
2. In talking about "the old life," Pastor Charlie discussed the power of idols, which can tempt us to replace, reduce, or even renounce Jesus if we give in to them. Idols, like comfort, are often good things, gifts from God Himself, that we rely on for our satisfaction, significance, or security above Jesus.
 - a. In this particular season, has the Spirit made you aware of any idols in your life?
 - b. What would it look like for you to "put to death" that sin?
 - c. Jesus said that he came so that we would "have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). What do you think Jesus wants for you that this idol falsely promises to give you?
3. In talking about "the new life," Pastor Charlie said that spiritual growth is "not creating an image for yourself" but "being created into an image of your true self."
 - a. What distinguishes the way our culture talks about the "authentic self" or "actualizing our true self" from the way Paul (and Scripture as a whole) talks about the "new self"?
 - b. Can you think of a time when you told yourself that the thing you were pursuing was "good," even though it was not a God-honoring or Spirit-led pursuit?
 - c. What do you think is necessary for discerning whether or not your pursuits—vocational, relational, or otherwise—are God-honoring and Spirit-led?
4. Verse 11 can seem out of place given our modern Western tendency to read and interpret the Bible individualistically, but Paul consistently writes not just about becoming a new person, but becoming a new *people*.
 - a. Are there any ways we have been (intentionally or unintentionally) belittling or dismissing one another here in this community group?
 - b. How can we not just tolerate but celebrate the differences and diversity in our church?

PRAY

Close by having someone slowly read Romans 8:1-11. Meditate on the forgiveness we have through Christ's saving work on the cross and the power we have through the indwelling Holy Spirit and let these truths turn what you discussed this evening into praise and petition.