

## Lesson 12

### Colossians 3:5-11

Day 1

#### KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE

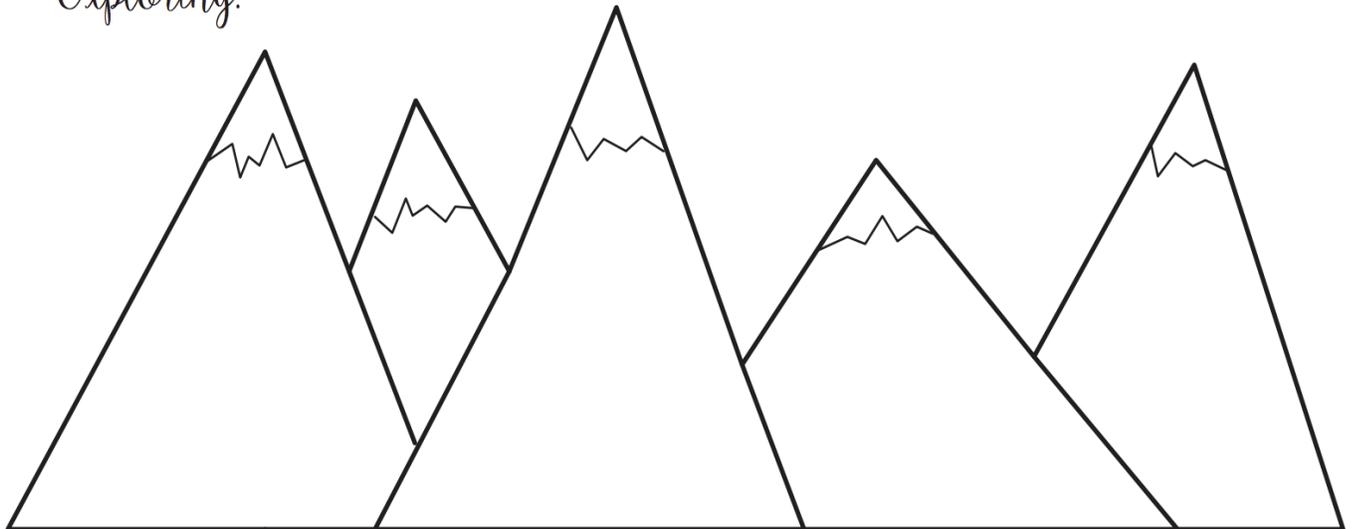
1. In the box below, explain verses 5-11 in only one or two sentences. Think about how you would explain it to a 10 year old child. I usually ask myself, “Who is doing what, and why is he doing it?” This is usually enough to get the main point of the thought into one or two sentences.

Verses 1-4	Verses 5-11	Verses 12-14	Verses 20-23
Paul is concerned that they may be deluded from the wealth that comes from true knowledge in Christ and instructs them to walk in Him as they were originally instructed			

#### EXPLORING THE THEME

2. In all of Colossians, look for the word: IMAGE. Write down the verses where you find this word and what you learn about it.

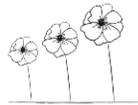
*Exploring:*



## Day 2

3. Last week we studied the first four verses of Colossians. Paul tells us to, “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” How have you been doing with setting your mind on things above since completing last week’s lesson?
  
4. In the NASB, verse 5 begins with, “Therefore consider the members of your earthly body,” while other translations such as the ESV and NIV start more poignantly with, “Put to death therefore.” What sins are we to “consider as dead/put to death” according to verse 5?
  
5. What do you learn from Romans 6:8-14 and 8:12-13 about putting sin to death?
  
6. The puritan, Richard Baxter, penned 20 directives for hating sin (the full list can be found at <http://www.puritansermons.com/baxter/baxter16.htm>). Read each of the following directives, and restate each one in your own words:
  - a. Directive III: See that you take not part with sin, and wrangle not, or strive not against your Physician, or any that would do you good.—Excusing sin, and heading for and extenuating it, and striving against the Spirit and conscience, and wrangling against ministers and godly friends, and hating reproof, are not the means to be cured and sanctified.
  
  - b. Directive V: Keep as far as you can from those temptations which feed and strengthen the sins which you would overcome.—Lay siege to your sins, and starve them out, by keeping away the food and fuel which is their maintenance and life.

- c. Directive VIII: Be always suspicious of carnal self-love, and watch against it.—For that is the burrow or fortress of sin, and the common patron of it; ready to draw you to it, and ready to justify it. We are very prone to be partial in our own cause; as the case of Judah with Tamar, and David when Nathan reproved him in a parable, show. [sic] our own passions, our own pride, our own censures, or backbitings, or injurious dealings, our own neglects of duty, seem small, excusable, if not justifiable things to us; whereas we could easily see the faultiness of all these in another, especially in an enemy: when yet we should be best acquainted with ourselves, and we should most love ourselves, and therefore hate our own sins most.
- d. Directive IX: Bestow your first and chiefest labour to kill sin at the root; to cleanse the heart, which is the fountain; for out of the heart come the evils of the life.—Know which are the master-roots; and bend your greatest care and industry to mortify those.
- e. Directive XIV: Make God's word your only rule and labour diligently to understand it.



#### GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

7. Are you faithful to fight your sin as these five directives challenge us? Think of one of your top sin struggles and list it here. Then describe how you will apply these directives to this particular sin in order to have victory over it.

**Optional:** For those who want to explore the other 18 directives on the website listed above, read and list three more directives that are most helpful to you in keeping your “favorite” sin at bay.

## Day 3

8. Most commentators agree that the list of sins in Colossians 3:5 have a common theme. The first three in the list give the strongest clue to what the common theme is. Read the parallel text in Ephesians 5:3-5 and then write the theme below.
  
9. The Greek word for immorality is “porneia,” from which the word pornography comes. It heads the list of the deeds of the flesh listed in Colossians 3:5. Define “immorality” according to a dictionary or a study Bible. Then look up the following verses and write what types of immorality are included in the use of this word: Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:16, 7:1-2; Hebrews 13:4.
  
10. The next item on the list is “impurity” which tightens the noose for those who think they are not immoral. Strong defines impurity (G167) as, “in a moral sense, the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living.” What is God's standard of purity according to 1 Peter 1:14-16?
  
11. For those who think the list so far does not apply to them, Paul lists “passion” and “evil desire.” These are terms that refer to what kind of unseen sin? How is this sin related to the *actions* of sexual sin? (Matthew 5:27-28, Romans 1:24, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

Consider the following thought-provoking quote:

“To lust is to want what you don’t have and weren’t meant to have. Lust goes beyond attraction, an appreciation of beauty, or even a healthy desire for sex -- it makes these desires more important than God. Lust wants to go outside God’s guidelines to find satisfaction.” (*Sex is Not the Problem (Lust is)* Joshua Harris pp.20-21)

12. How do you think the first four items on the list are related to the sin of greed? Read Exodus 20:17 and Ephesians 4:17-19 to help you formulate your answer.

13. If lust is "to want what you don't have and weren't meant to have" then all of these sins on this list can be summed up in one word: "which amounts to \_\_\_\_\_" (Colossians 3:5). What truths from Psalm 63:1-5 can help you battle against this problem?



#### GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

14. Take some time to examine your own heart with the struggles of sexual sin and idolatry.

- a. What form of sexual temptation do you struggle with the most? What is your "battle plan" for putting this sin to death?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. How is a man's struggle with sexual sin different from a woman's? How can we, as women, not be a stumbling block for them?

## Day 4

15. Colossians 3:6 tells us how bad sin is. What action does God take to deal with unsaved sinners? (Matthew 13:41-42, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, and Revelation 11:18)

16. Of what important truth does Colossians 3:7 remind us? How does remembering this truth help us keep a proper perspective on ourselves and those around us who are unsaved? (Romans 1:18-32)



### GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

17. Listed below are the Strong's definitions for the sins listed in Colossians 3:8 and also notes from the MacArthur Colossians Commentary. Evaluate how you have been doing in each of these areas this past week, and note how God has grown you in this area since you were saved. Which of these are most characteristic of you? When do you see yourself most tempted in each of these sins?

Anger (G3709): impulse, wrath, and a deep, smoldering, resentful bitterness

Wrath (G2372): anger, passion, punishment, vengeance; sudden outburst of sinful anger

Malice (G2549): evil, wickedness; in context of passage, means the damage caused by evil speech

Slander (G988): blasphemy

Abusive speech (G148): result of anger, wrath and malice; obscene and derogatory speech intended to hurt and wound someone



*Optional:* Who can participate in this renewal according to Colossians 3:11? God has always had a heart for the Gentiles. Who did God bring near to Himself in the following examples? Where did these individuals live?

Joshua 2

Luke 4:26, 1 Kings 17:7-16

Luke 4:27, 2 Kings 5:1-14

GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION



21. In what one area will you seek to live a more devoted life to Christ as a result of this lesson?