



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: Dealing With the Dead Man**

**Date: July 14, 2024**

**Scripture Text: Colossians 3:5-11**

### **Notes:**

Chapter 3 of Colossians focuses on the practical application of what the Christian life looks like. [Col. 3:1-4](#) describe where the Christian's focus should be, "on the things above" and "not on the things that are on the earth". The things above relate to eternal things, and the things of earth, temporary and temporal. The Apostle Paul transitions in [verse 5](#) to give examples of what a focus on earthly things looks like. They include both actions and attitudes. These represent how the Christian lived before salvation but should not be a part of their life after conversion. Focus needs to shift from the characteristics of a life without Christ to a life described as *renewed* with Christ ([vs. 10](#)).

#### **I. Deeds of the Dead Man (Colossians 3:5, 8-9)**

As Christians, we are to "consider" our old, pre-Christian self as dead to the lusts and desires we had before we were saved. It doesn't mean they just go away, but we are to view them as no longer controlling us as before. The list of items is not exhaustive but give an example of the things the Christian should no longer be a part of. They are to be voluntarily removed like an old, smelly coat and discarded, never to be put on again.

- List the items Paul's depicts in [vs 5](#). Describe what each one looks like in the life of a non-Christian.
- Similarly, do the same thing with the items in [vss. 8-9](#).
- How can a Christian 'take these items off' after they are saved?
- What role can the Holy Spirit and church play to help?
- Why might Christians forget they are no longer wearing the old smelly coat (why would a Christian return to these sins)?
- How well are you remembering you no longer wear the old smelly coat?
- What are things you can do daily that can help you remember you no longer have on the old smelly coat?

#### **II. Deal With the Deeds (Colossians 3:6-7)**

For a Christian to linger in sin (keep the old smelly coat on) does not go unnoticed by God. [Col. 3:6](#) describes how God's wrath is poured out on them. 'The wrath of God' is not a malicious or impulsive anger, but the necessary reaction of true holiness, justice and goodness to wickedness, corruption and evil of every kind. Similarly, it has been said that



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

### **Notes:**

the most miserable people are disobedient Christians that have an internal struggle between hanging on to their sinful practices and the deep convictions of the Holy Spirit.

- How would you describe God's wrath?
- How can the consequences of sin and God's wrath be a motivator to keep the old smelly coat off?
- [Prov. 9:10a](#) states "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". How can the fear of the Lord help us 'deal with the deeds'?
- What are some 'deeds' you're dealing with?
- What have you found to help you deal with them?
- How can you be available to help those who are struggling to deal with similar deeds?

### **III. Change Clothes (Colossians 3:10-11)**

As a Christian, we are to put on a new, fresh coat, one that is renewed in a true knowledge of Christ. No longer are we to focus or pursue our sinful life that existed before we were saved. We are to actively focus and pursue Christ! This is the process of sanctification. Sanctification is the "process of being made holy resulting in a changed lifestyle for the believer". We become more and more like Christ as we live for Him and not ourselves. It's not enough to just remove the old, smelly coat. A new, fresh coat must take its place, and buttoned up snug and secure.

- Describe characteristics of someone you know who wears the new fresh coat well.
- How can remembering your new coat make you a more effective servant of Christ.
- List examples of activities that help the 'sanctification' process.

**Pause and pray for God to show you areas in your life where you might be acting like you're wearing the old smelly coat of sin and ask for the boldness and courage to remember your new fresh coat and live in obedient submission to Christ.**

"It is our duty to mortify our members which incline to the things of the world. Mortify them, kill them, suppress them, as weeds or vermin which spread and destroy all about them. Continual opposition must be made to all corrupt workings, and no provision made for carnal indulgences. Occasions of sin must be avoided: the lusts of the flesh, and the love of the world; and covetousness, which is idolatry; love of present good, and of outward enjoyments. It is necessary to mortify sins, because if we do not kill them, they will kill us. The gospel changes the higher as well as the lower powers of the soul, and supports the rule of right reason and conscience, over appetite and passion. It is the duty of every one to be holy, because Christ is a Christian's All, his only Lord and Saviour, and all his hope and happiness. "

Matthew Henry