Learning to Live as a Child of the King

Colossians 3:5-11

Introduction

We have been adopted into Christ’s family and now we need to learn what it means to live as a child of the King.

In this process of change (transformation and sanctification) there is a part that God must do and there is a part that we must do.

I. We must put to death sexual sins.
Colossians 3:5-7

Put to death is a strong command.

“If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.” Matthew 18:8-9

We are to put to death what belongs to our earthly nature.
• All sexual immorality – pre-marital sex, adultery, homosexual sex, pornography, prostitution.
• Impurity – impure thoughts of any kind.
• Lust – uncontrolled passions and sexual desires.
• Evil desires – of any kind.
• Greed – the continual desire for more and more whether money or sex or power.

All of this is idolatry! Anything that comes before God in our life is an idol.

Why is it important that we put these sins to death?
• God hates them. Because of these, God’s wrath is coming.
• We belong to Christ and this behavior is not appropriate in our life.

Too often people ignore the warnings. “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” Galatians 6:7-8

II. We must put aside anger and hurtful speech. Colossians 3:8

Rid yourselves of all such things as these:
• Anger, rage and malice – Heart attitudes that can lead to violent actions.
• Slander and filthy language – obscenities, swearing, crude jokes, foul mouthed abuse.

There’s no place for any of that in the life of a Christian.
This list is not complete. It would also include gossip, bitterness, critical attitudes, insults and put downs.
Instead we are to look for ways to encourage and build up one another. And when we must confront someone, we speak the truth in love.

III. We must stop lying to one another. *Colossians 3:9-11*

It is interesting how Paul singles out lying as something that needs to change.

We need to be honest about our sin, if we are ever going to change.

It doesn’t matter whether our struggle is with alcohol, drugs, sex, money (greed) or food.

Victory starts with admitting our need and that we are powerless to change ourselves.

Put off – Put on.

We have a new nature, but that new life needs to be renewed continually. We grow by the knowledge of God’s Word.

We need to starve the old nature and feed the new.

**Conclusion**

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN FIVE SHORT CHAPTERS**

by Portia Nelson
I
I walk down the street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I fall in.
I am lost ... I am helpless.
It isn't my fault.
It takes me forever to find a way out.

II
I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I pretend I don't see it.
I fall in again.
I can't believe I am in the same place but, it isn't my fault.
It still takes a long time to get out.

III
I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I see it is there.
I still fall in ... it's a habit.
my eyes are open
I know where I am.
It is my fault.
I get out immediately.

IV
I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I walk around it.

V
I walk down another street.

Where are you in your walk with Christ?
Are you walking down the same street and falling into the same hole over and over again?
It’s time to find a new street.