

JESUS FOLLOWERS PUT SINFUL ACTIONS TO DEATH

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN IMAGE BEARER
SERIES: GOD IS PURE — I AM PURSUING

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS PUT SINFUL ACTIONS TO DEATH

Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 7:15-24; Psalm 106:39; Proverbs 13:16; Romans 1:27

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:8-9

“But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices...”

BIG IDEAS

- Anger and evil speech must die.
- Deceit must die.
- Status and distinction must die.

BIBLE PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 3:8-11

KNEEL - I AM AN IMAGE BEARER

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God’s glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- They exist for God’s glory
- The life of a Jesus follower is a life of constantly pursuing being more like Christ.



Every student should feel...

- A deep love for God’s Word.
- Humbled that God would use us to make Him known.



Every student should strive to...

- Spend time each day studying God’s Word and letting it shape their thoughts, feelings, and actions.
- Flee temptation and strive to “put off” sinful desires, thoughts, and actions.



Every student should want...

- To have a healthy fear of the Lord that leads them to walk in His wisdom.
- To pursue Christlikeness in their attitudes, desires, thoughts, and actions.
- To walk in and model a life of purity because God is pure.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

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BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:8-9

“But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices...”

Believers should actively put off the works of the flesh.

“But now you must put them all away...”

- The works of the flesh are products of our sinful hearts. When we become believers, we still battle our flesh nature while we are alive on earth. Paul writes to the Colossians believers to battle against these works of the flesh. Being redeemed from our sin nature comes with a responsibility to fight against the temptation to sin by using the power of the Holy Spirit inside of us.
- Paul uses the language of “putting off” to describe the way in which believers are to turn away from their sinful desires and actions. Because believers are new creations and receive new hearts, they can turn away from their sin nature. They are no longer held captive by it.

Believers should live above reproach in all ways.

“But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.”

- To live above reproach means that we live in a way that no one would have any reason to rebuke or correct us. Believers’ lives should reveal that they have been transformed by Christ. This means that they do not display continually the characteristics of the flesh.
- Instead, they display the fruit of the Spirit and reveal that their hearts have been made new and their lives are being continually transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit inside of them.

Believers should live honest lives.

“Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices...”

- Paul specifically mentions not being liars when he writes to the Colossians of what it means to put off the works of the flesh. Believers should be honest with all people. In order to be truly trustworthy, they must live lives free of deceit.
- Believers should seek to be humble and honest about their own shortcomings and to speak the truth in love to others. By living honest lives, believers reveal the work of the Holy Spirit in their own hearts.

JESUS FOLLOWERS PUT SINFUL ACTIONS TO DEATH

BIG IDEA #1: ANGER AND EVIL SPEECH MUST DIE.¹

[THIS]

In Colossians 3:8-10, Paul describes the sin nature of mankind. Our sin nature is also referred to as our flesh nature. When Paul speaks of the works of the flesh, he is talking about the attitudes and actions that are birthed from our sinful desires. These sinful desires are in direct contradiction to God's righteousness and lead us away from God, not toward Him. Every part of our lives is influenced by sin and we must work to weed these sinful desires out of our lives. Part of our sinful desires is our speech. Our speech matters to God. Our words are valuable, and we should turn away from any type of speech that is displeasing to God. Because we reflect Christ in us, our words should give life, not take it. We should seek to build up with our words, not tear down. We should put away all slander, malice, and obscene talk from our lives because these things are not glorifying to God. Instead, they glorify our sinful, flesh natures.

[THEREFORE]

What does evil speech look like in your life, and how do we put it death?

In Proverbs 15:1-4, we see the importance of a gentle, kind, soft response to people. This means that no matter how people speak to us, we should strive to answer with kindness and gentleness. Psalm 141:3 teaches us the importance of praying for the Holy Spirit to guard our mouths and help us speak only things that please the Lord and not things that dishonor Him.

[THIS]

Part of putting off the works of the flesh is putting away our anger. We know that anger is a part of the human condition, but we are told in Scripture not to sin in our anger. There is no place in a believer's heart for festering, lingering anger. We should strive to let go of any anger we feel, to choose to forgive, and to move on from any situation that causes us anger. Anger can fester and lead us to focus on our situation instead of pursuing Christ. We should die to anger and allow it to have no control over us. Anger can permeate every part of our lives and lead us to disobey God. Godly people are not angry people.

[THEREFORE]

What anger do you need to put away in order to grow in Christ?

James 1:19-20 teaches us that our anger does lead to our spiritual growth, but instead keeps us from growing in righteousness. In order to grow in Christ, we must put our anger away and seek to walk humbly as Christ did. Proverbs 19:11 tells us it brings God glory when we overlook an offense. As we seek to overlook the ways we are offended, we will grow spiritually and become more like Christ.

How has your hope in Christ helped you to let go of your anger?

Colossians 3:13 tells us to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us. Because we have received the ultimate forgiveness, we should willingly let go of any anger we have. We would not reveal a heart that truly understands the gospel if we hold onto anger when God so willingly lets go of His towards us.

1. Colossians 3: 8: Believers should turn away from the works of their sin natures that lead them to speak obscene things and to give life to their feelings of anger and malice.

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BIG IDEA #2: DECEIT MUST DIE.²

[THIS]

In Colossians 3:9, Paul tells the Colossians to not lie to one another. When we stretch the truth, we are practicing deception. We can exaggerate to make ourselves look better or to make others look bad. Our lives should not display any type of deception. When we deceive others, we are seeking our own gain and not the glory of God. We can cause great harm to others by exaggerating. Believers should not be people who intentionally or unintentionally deceive others through their words or actions. Lying reveals a lack of trust in our hearts. It reveals an unwillingness to face the consequences of our own sin and a lack of trust that God is faithful to forgive. We can also make light of someone else's sin in hopes of keeping them from dealing with their consequences. We lie to protect ourselves or better our situation and we reveal we do not really trust God to work in our lives through every situation and circumstance.

[THEREFORE]

Why are we tempted to lie and keep things in the dark instead of choosing to speak the truth?

Jeremiah 17:9-10 tells us about our sinful selves. Our hearts, or will and emotions, are broken. Our hearts deceive us and lead us to deceive others. Because we are naturally sinful, it is natural to us, in our sinfulness, to keep things hidden rather than speaking the truth. It is part of the Holy Spirit inside of us that compels us to share the truth not matter the consequences.

How are you guilty of deceit through exaggeration?

All exaggeration is stretching the truth, but when we use it purposefully twist a circumstance or situation for our own good, we are deceiving others and dishonoring God. Exodus 20:16 commands God's people to not lie against another person. Proverbs 19:9 tells us that liars do not go unpunished and Ephesians 4:25 reminds us that the reason we should not lie to fellow believers is because we are all part of the same body.

[THIS]

God's people should be known as men and women of integrity. This means we say³ what we mean and we mean what we say. We should be known as truth-tellers and as faithful and trustworthy people because God is faithful and trustworthy. If we cannot be trusted to speak truth about earthly things, we cannot be trusted to speak the truth about the gospel. If people find us to be untrustworthy in general, when we attempt to share the gospel, they may or may not hear us because of how we have lived with them. Lying is a poor reflection of the image of God we bear and it dishonors Him.

[THEREFORE]

What behaviors or thoughts lead you to deceive others?

Proverbs 28:26 tells us that those who trust in their own minds, or wisdom are fools. When we trust ourselves over trusting God's Word, we set ourselves up to dishonor Him and to deceive others. We are more susceptible to sinful temptation when we trust in our own minds. James 4:7 tells us to submit ourselves to God. When we fail to do so, we set ourselves up for failure as well.

How can you seek to tell the truth in love in your daily life?

In order to tell the truth in love, we must first know the truth. John 8:31-32 tells us that we know the truth by abiding in Christ who is our source of truth. By abiding in Christ, we will know the truth and we will know how to love others and speak the truth in love. Proverbs 14:5 tells us that a faithful witness does not lie. This means that those who are truthful are faithful. We can tell the truth in love when we seek to be faithful.

2. Colossians 3:9: We must not lie to one another. Deception is from Satan and leads us to dishonor God with our lives and to mistreat others.

3. Matthew 5:37: Jesus commands us to let our yes be yes and our no be no. We should be people of integrity who do what we say we're going to do.

JESUS FOLLOWERS PUT SINFUL ACTIONS TO DEATH

BIG IDEA #3: STATUS AND DISTINCTION MUST DIE.⁴

[THIS]

Throughout chapter 3 of Colossians, Paul speaks of a believer's old self and their new self. Our old self is broken and sinful. In our sin, we desire status and position. We want to be distinguished above others because our sin nature pursues its own glory. We work to achieve glory on this earth for ourselves and not for God. We desire earthly success and any praise that people will give us. We worry over status and distinction and material possessions. We reveal the sinfulness of our hearts when we pursue money and material things instead of seeking first the kingdom of God. Our old self rejects God and the pursuit of His glory. It chooses instead to pursue our own glory and to focus on life on this earth and not our eternal home.

[THEREFORE]

What remnants of the old self do you still struggle with in your daily life?

James 4:4 teaches us that friendship with the world is strife with God. We cannot follow God and pursue the things of this world. Our sinful self wants the things of this world and seeks after them. Galatians 5:17 tells us that the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit and lead us away from God. We still struggle with a love of the things of this world as we battle our flesh nature.

How have you sought status and distinction over God's glory in your daily life?

Romans 12:3 reminds us to not think more highly of ourselves than we ought because we are all sinners redeemed not by our own works, but by the work of Christ on the cross. We still seek to set ourselves above others and to gain distinction over others. Revelation 7:9 teaches us that God's kingdom will involve people from every nation, tribe, and language. We seek to think of ourselves as better than others because of our flesh nature.

[THIS]

In Christ, all believers are equally forgiven. Christ's death on the cross fulfills the sin debt of every person. We die to status and distinction when we die to ourselves. We no longer seek to elevate ourselves above others. Being in Christ means being in His family and there is no member of His family greater than any other member. Christ makes no distinction among the members of His family. Believers are all God's people. They are all sinners in need of salvation and only Christ can save them. Because we are all seen as the same by Christ, we must die to our fleshly idea of status and distinction. We must put to death any ideas that lead us to believe one ethnicity, race, or people group is greater than another. Christ is all and in all.

[THEREFORE]

Read Colossians 3:11. How should the Gospel reshape the way we view racism, social status, and any other type of prejudice?

This verse teaches us that because of Jesus, there is no room in a believer's heart for any form of racism, partiality, or prejudice. All people are created as image bearers and are therefore of great value to God. It is sin that leads us to value one ethnicity over another or to treat certain people as greater than others. In Christ, all Christians are equally forgiven and seen as equals. This means, as believers, we should renounce any form of prejudice, racism, or classism as sinful and against the Gospel.

How does dying to yourself daily help you put off the desire for distinction and worldly praise?

Galatians 5:13 teaches us to seek to serve, not to seek to rule over others. When we die to ourselves daily, we will humble ourselves and serve one another as Christ served us. Matthew 16:26 reminds us of the futility of seeking greatness in this life. We can seemingly gain the whole world, yet lose our life in eternity.

4. Colossians 3:11: *We must not think of ourselves as more important than we are. Paul teaches that in Christ there are not distinctions.*