

# You are the image of Christ...so live like Christ

Colossians 3:6-11

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**Colossians 3:6 For it is because of these things** (Mental Attitude Sins or Overt Sins or even Sins of the Tongue listed in verse 5) **that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,**

(the phrase) **upon the sons of disobedience** is not in the original manuscripts (for details see Metzger, A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament-pages 624-625)

Now as to the **wrath of God** a lot of people including pastor-teachers do not believe in the wrath of God. People, if you believe in the perfect Righteousness of God, then you should understand the wrath of God toward all Unrighteousness.

**Wrath orga** — Here, *wrath* or righteous indignation of God. What is your view of God?

We have noted His love at the cross.

Now we are going to see: Why the cross? Why the great demand on His Love. Because of the depth of His wrath!

This is what Kind of God, our God is!

He sees man in Unrighteousness.

Because He is a Holy God, His wrath rages at Unrighteousness.

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But this word, wrath, denotes not the punishment but God's attitude toward all unrighteousness.

**Because of which things** Things listed in verse 5 **the wrath of God comes** *Present Active Indicative*. You can count on this, the wrath of God will come. You can count on Divine Discipline to both believer and unbeliever.

**Colossians 3:7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.**

**and in them you also once walked**, *Aorist Active Indicative* used for a way of life; pattern of life they once lived

**In the sphere of such things you also walked** this is what is known as a constative *Aorist* which gathers all together every occasion in which they practiced such things.

The *Active* voice says they made a decision to practice such things

The *Indicative* is the harsh reality that they walked in such a manner of life

**when you were living** Walking and living go together to emphasize to them their own participation.

**living** is an *imperfect active indicative* in them.

**Colossians 3:8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.**

**But now** this dramatic combination of an adverb and a particle is designed to show a change in attitude or in life itself. What often brings about this change comes in the midst of a series of divine disciplines

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which by the way is called 'Jesus knocking at the door.' This knocking is a warning! To straighten out your life pattern. This knocking is also an opportunity for recovery. As long as Christ is knocking at your door, you can repent and change your walk, from walking in the flesh to walking in the Spirit. This is the objective of divine discipline, to alert the believer of his sinful living in the flesh, to get his attention to turn around and start pleasing God and allowing Christ to live in him.

**But now, you also** In context this refers to Colossian believers who are not living in the power of the Holy Spirit but who are on their way to recovery into the life that glorifies Jesus Christ. By application this refers to any believer throughout the Church Age.

1. The continuous decision to make the grace recovery by faith from living for self to allowing Christ to live in you by faith in Holy Spirit.
2. The continuous decision to expose oneself to face to face teaching of the Word of God. Jesus Christ, as head of the Church, has ordained the local church for the spiritual growth and welfare of saints of the Church Age.

**But now, you also put them all aside** actually we have the *Aorist Middle Imperative* of a compound verb, made up of a prefix meaning 'from' and the root verb meaning 'to lay'; to lay from. It came into use to describe 'to take off soiled or dirty clothing.' It eventually came to mean to 'renounce' to lay aside something; to rid oneself of something that is dirty or uncomfortable, to get rid of something that is causing discomfort. In this verse, it refers to the discomfort of Divine Discipline. Divine Discipline is designed by God to cause such discomfort to your life that

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you repent and get back to walking in the Holy Spirit instead of walking (living) in the flesh.

The *Aorist* tense is *ingressive*, which means to begin to lay aside these things from your life. These sins are the soiled clothes in our lives. Take them off! And this is no one shot decision. Think about it. You have on dirty clothes. You have to take off your shirt, slacks, shoes etc. The *Ingressive Aorist* means you begin to lay aside your sinful life and start getting back to a life pleasing to God, where Christ lives in you. You begin to keep short accounts of Grace Recovery from the Power of Sin back into the Power of the Holy Spirit by faith. You become consistent in the intake of doctrine at a local church where the Word of God is taught.

The *Middle Voice* emphasizes the fact that the subject (you, the recovering believer) participates in the results of the action of the verb.

The *Imperative Mood*: There it is again! We are commanded to do this, but we do not have the power or ability to do it. So, this starts by grace through faith...Even though we cannot do this in the flesh, the imperative is used to let us know what God's will is, what is pleasing to God. God is not pleased with the believer walking around in soil clothes. His will is that we walk in the Righteousness by Holy Spirit.

**But now you put aside all these things** which will begin being listed here and in verse 9.

And the first object to be laid aside is **anger**. Fundamental to this word is the desire to be in 'control:' control of people, control of things, control of circumstances. Watch a small child when they lose control of something, they will 'fling' it as far as they can or against a wall or floor

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to break it. We have studied how every single one of us has various trends from our Inherited Sin Nature. Many people have an 'anger disposition.' Many circumstances can arouse this anger inside a person. The detonator is the short fuse of jealousy, not being in control, not getting one's way etc. There are people who are not so much angry at another person or thing but just angry at life. Anger is a mental attitude sin that destroys your Loving as Jesus Christ loves. That keeps some believers from repenting and going into Grace Recovery.

Take a look at your options. In the spirit filled life you develop the capacity for freedom, life, love, happiness, and grace. But in a Self Centered life you develop the capacity for mental attitude sins like, jealousy, hatred, anger etc. There is quite a difference in these two, yet a multitude of believers find themselves in one or the other. You decide what kind of life you desire, what environment you desire to live in. Then you make the appropriate decisions to live in that environment.

The next deterrent to loving as Jesus Christ loves is **wrath**. When ascribed to man it refers to 'emotional turbulence' of the mind or soul, 'to move impetuously,' 'a violent motion or passion of the mind' (The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament).

**Malice** Oh, boy, you think anger and wrath were bad. Well get ready for 'malice.' When anger and wrath are frustrated in that they do not bring about desired results in others or in circumstances, then malice sets in. This is when the person starts plotting, designing evil or trouble or affliction on others, even murder. Under the influence of malice you scheme what will hurt the other person. This is one of the motivations for immorality or even crime in young people, to hurt their parents. But,

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adults also use malice to get even or hurt the other person. In many cases promiscuity is a result of malice toward one's husband or wife. It has nothing to do with the third person, but simply malice to hurt their own spouse with the result they hurt themselves far worse than they hurt their husband or wife.



[Andy Capp cartoon shared from <https://www.gocomics.com/andycapp/2018/6/11>]

**Slander** With this one we move into Sins of the Tongue. The Greek word is a transliteration: *blasphemia* which refers to a verbal abuse against someone. This is but an extension of 'malice.' Often, people use slander to hurt someone else, generally someone they are jealous of. You may notice that jealousy crops up every now and then in these lists. Jealousy is destructive to your spiritual life. But people so often find slander as a most easy way to hurt someone. All you have to do is wag your tongue. James Chapter 3 gives an excellent discourse on controlling the tongue:

**James 3:5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!**

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**Colossians 3:3...and abusive speech out from the source of your mouth** This is a nice way of saying ‘filthy communication’ as in the King James. The Greek word means to be ‘foul-mouthed, filthy or improper speaking.’ Generally, this refers to spreading shameful words to really hurt another person. All you have to do is listen to the Democrats speak of President Trump today and you will hear ‘shameful speech’ designed to hurt him. Often truth is not an issue in this filthy communication. But it is not limited toward another person. Often today where young people are not taught proper speech and proper vocabulary, this is all they can express, because this is all that is in their minds. The Greek word means disgraceful or abusive speech. This refers to both what is said about someone. It reveals the character of the one speaking as being of a ‘low’ character.

Please remember that while believers are saved eternally and will be in that glorious presentation as members of the Bride of Christ, while on earth we still possess the same sinful flesh nature. It has not changed and always seeks to rule over the New Spiritual Creation that we are in Christ. But we now have the Indwelling Holy Spirit inside us to rule over the Inherited Sin Nature. But we are not to grieve nor quench the Holy Spirit.

Now before we move to verse 9, let's note something we have just studied. In verse 5 we are to consider members of our Inherited Sin Nature as dead in our Christian life. Then in verse 8 is a list of sin patterns we are to put off from us. Now in verse 9 we have one major deterrent to living the Spirit Filled Life: lying.

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**Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,**

**Do not lie** This Greek word includes lying but it also includes to cheat, to defraud or to falsify, even to deceive or to break a treaty; to lie to speak falsely or deceitfully. This is *Present Middle Imperative* which is best understood: **stop lying to one another or do not continue to lie to one another.**

1. Satan is the father of lies

**John 8:44 “You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

Therefore people, when you lie, you are doing the work of Satan.

2. This imperative is to believers only. The only issue for the unbeliever is the gospel, not moral or ethical instructions, as though by doing these they please God. The only way an unbeliever can please God is by believing in His son as their Savior.
3. Jesus Christ told believers not to worry when someone lied about them because of Him. Matt. 5:11.



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4. You may get away with lying to others but never deceive yourself that you can lie to God. The story of Ananias lying to the Holy Spirit is a stern warning to all of us. Acts 5:3ff.
5. It is a wise parent who makes 'not lying' essential in the rearing of their children.

**Colossians 3:9 lie not to one another** This takes us right into the New Commandment by Jesus Christ in John 13:34-35

**one another** The Greek word means another of the same kind, that is another believer. No, this does not mean we can lie to unbelievers. The New Commandment by Jesus Christ: **that you love one another as I have loved you.** People, if we think in terms of the New Commandment, we will not have *anger, wrath or malice* toward another believer.

So, here is the secret of these words. Do not think about not lying, or not cheating, or not becoming angry or have malice toward another believer. Think about the New Commandment. You will not do another believer wrong in any way if you love them as Christ loves. But even here, do not think so much about not loving or loving but think of the Holy Spirit – trusting the Holy Spirit for if or when we are filled with the Holy Spirit we will not sin against another believer.

**Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another since you laid aside the old self** (that is the old nature, the Inherited Sin Nature with its evil practices)

Actually, **that you put off** is an *Aorist Middle Participle*: **having put off**. In verse 8 we had the *Aorist Middle Imperative* of **take off** as in soiled clothes. Here we have *Aorist Middle Participle* of the verb

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meaning to strip off as in stripping off clothing. But, in the middle voice, as we have it here, it carries the idea of ‘disarming.’ In the constative use of the Aorist it describes all the steps involved that are necessary to disarm your Inherited Sin Nature. In the middle voice, the subject participates in the result of disarming our Inherited Sin Nature. In other words, we are benefited by disarming our Inherited Sin Nature. The participle is used, first to show this is not a one shot decision, but is accompanied with other actions. This tells you how you are going to ‘stop lying, stop being deceitful.’ This is the way these things are accomplished in a believer’s life. It is not accomplished by the believer saying ‘I am not going to lie any more,’ but by recovering from a long time of living under the influence of the Inherited Sin Nature.

Again, how are we going to ‘disarm’ our flesh nature?

We have recently noted this in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

**2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,** (that is we do not ‘disarm’ our Inherited Sin Nature according to the flesh, that is we do not disarm by saying, ‘I will not lie’)

**2 Corinthians 10:4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful** (reference to God the Holy Spirit) **for the destruction of fortresses.** (Things that come from our Inherited Sin Nature).

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**2 Corinthians 10:5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, (the list of sins we have been studying) and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, (setting our minds on things above, not on earth)**

So, how do we disarm our flesh nature?

**Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**

This begs the question, ‘how do we walk by the Spirit’? In Colossians 3:7 we saw that they ‘walked’ by the flesh. Now we are to walk by the Spirit. How do we walk by the Spirit?

**Ephesians 2:8 By grace through faith, that not of yourselves...**

So what is our part?

Faith, simple faith! in the Holy Spirit. Then the Holy Spirit starts disarming our Inherited Sin Nature. That is the sin nature that we inherited from Adam;

**Colossians 3:9 Stop lying to one another having disarmed the old self (King James the old man, a reference to our Inherited Sin Nature).**

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These are things we all do in the flesh. Everyone of us has a ‘trend’ toward some of these and not others. But we are all under the control of the flesh nature until we put the Holy Spirit in control by faith in the Holy Spirit, trusting Him to disarm our flesh nature.

**With its *evil* practices** Notice the italics which lets us know this is not in the original manuscript. But please do not speed read past ‘practices.’ This word describes how we all are when under the rule of our flesh nature. We each have different ‘practices’ but we are all going to ‘do’ or ‘perform’ according to our Inherited Sin Nature. Often friendships are formed based on trends of our sin nature rather than based on our spiritual actions under ‘the Holy Spirit.’

Romans 8:12-13 give some stern warning about our living in the flesh.

**Romans 8:12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh —**

**Romans 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Spiritually before God)**

**Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new self (nature) who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—**

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The book of Colossians is about Jesus Christ.

Chapters 1-2: The preeminence of Jesus Christ

Chapters 3-4 Making Jesus Christ preeminent in your life...

Why? Because He saved you and He created you.

You have rendered the members of your body dead to sins of the flesh.

You have put aside sins of the flesh nature.

You have disarmed your Inherited Sin Nature.

Now you are ready to put on Righteousness.

**and have put on the new self** This is the *Aorist Middle Participle* of the verb. In the *active voice* it means to dress someone. But, in the *middle voice* it means to dress yourself or cause yourself to get into a garment. That is the way it should be understood here. Why? Because we, in the flesh cannot put on the new self, but by faith we can cause ourselves to get into the new man, the new self. Again, the *Aorist* is a constative aorist which gathers into one all the movements – every decision you have to make by faith toward the Holy Spirit and the Word of God; to constantly be walking by faith and to constantly be growing in Bible doctrine.

The *middle voice* means you cause this to happen inside you. Your participation is simply, non-meritorious faith.

The action of the *Aorist Participle* precedes the action of the main verb. The main verb goes back to verse 9 **do not lie to one another** So the Greek construction indicates the means by which the action of the main verb is going to be fulfilled. The Greek looks something like this: **cause yourself to put on new self then you will be able to stop lying to one**

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**another.** How are you going to stop lying? How are you going to being deceptive? **By putting on the new self.** The Greek word for *new* is in contrast with **the old nature** of verse 9 and refers to something that has just come about. How did this first come about? By faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

**which is being renewed** This is the *Present Passive Participle* of the verb which means to make ‘qualitatively new’. The *passive voice* is important here, keeping with the idea we do not do this. But, this is something that God does and we receive it by faith. The Great Contrast: our old nature will fall to the ground and become dust, but our new nature, never grows old and is continually renewed or made afresh. This new nature is ‘born from above,’ born of God and renewed by God the Holy Spirit as the believer continues to grow in the living Word of God which is superior or true knowledge.

**which is being renewed to a true knowledge or by a true knowledge**

You get it? There are two things here:

First: There is false knowledge, false teaching, false doctrine.

Second: You must grow in true knowledge on a continuous basis. You have to be so careful to whom you listen to in the teaching of the Word of God.

This is called ‘true knowledge’ because this is *epignosis*. ‘It is more intense than **gnosis** knowledge because it expresses a more thorough participation in the acquiring of this knowledge on the part of the learner.’ (The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary of NT) This knowledge powerfully influences the Christian life. We have seen in Colossians 1:9

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that a believer who, under the Filling of the Holy Spirit, continually learns from a pastor-teacher can learn the Will of God.

**Which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the one who created him.** The image here is Jesus Christ who created him. This refers to original creation stated in

**Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”**

**Genesis 1:27 God (second member of the Godhead) created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

Now you should start grasping the concept of **being renewed to a true knowledge according to the one who created him.**

**Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;**

Now we are ready for Colossians 3:11

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***Colossians 3:11 a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.***

You notice that *a renewal* is in italics which means it is not part of the original manuscript. I pray you get this.

1. At the beginning of human history God, Jesus Christ, created man.
2. Man sinned and died spiritually.
3. Now, when an unbeliever believes in Jesus Christ as Savior He is created --- Renewed as it were.
4. In this renewing by Jesus Christ at the point of faith he becomes a New Spiritual Creation.
5. There is no distinction between members of this New Spiritual Creation.
6. There is no racial distinction between Gentiles and Jews.
7. There is no religious distinction: circumcision and uncircumcision.
8. There is no cultural distinction  
Barbarian: a wild uncultured people around the Black Sea  
Scythian: tribes of Russia found around the Black Sea;  
a slave and freeman.

People, we have to understand something about slavery. The Word of God does not condone slavery but at the same time makes it very clear



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that a slave who believes in Jesus Christ is 'free in Christ' and is just as much a member of the Body of Christ as any free person.

**But in Christ all are equal because Jesus Christ is in all and all are there because of Jesus Christ**