

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 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 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Colossians 3:5-11 NKJ

### **Put these to Death! Put them off!**

Paul reminded the disciples in Colossae that they had put on the new self which is renewed in knowledge after the image of the Creator (see left). For this reason they were to change their lives. He used strong language about these ungodly actions: put to death, put them off! We need the same reminder. Here are brief definitions and a few references to consider.

Sexual immorality, i.e. fornication, is “illicit sexual intercourse in general” (Thayer, Greek-English Lexicon 531-2). God’s design for the sexual relationship is to be enjoyed in marriage between the one man and the one woman for life. In our world sexuality is often looked upon as casual, but God does not view it as casual. We must use self-control to avoid fornication and those actions which lead to it. See Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 19:1-9

Impurity is “In a moral sense, the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living” (Thayer, 21). Romans 1:24 emphasizes the physical application of impurity.

Passion can be used in a good or evil sense but is listed with that which is evil here. It is an emotion, an affection of the mind and often as depraved passion (Thayer, 472). Romans 1:26

Evil desire is described as the lusts and appetites of the flesh (Trench, Synonyms of the New Testament, p. 324). 1 John 2:16

Covetousness is the greedy desire to have more (Thayer, 516). Paul says it is idolatry (see left). 1 Thessalonians 2:5; James 4:1-10

Anger is a longer held emotion or attitude. It is a synonym of wrath (Trench 130-132). James 1:19. See also Ephesians 5:26.

Wrath is a quick, turbulent anger. It quickly arises but is not a long-lasting disposition (Trench, 130-132). Acts 19:28

Malice is “ill will, desire to injure.” (Thayer, 320) Acts 8:22; Titus 3:3

Slander is “speech injurious to another’s good name” (Thayer, 102). Jude 9. It is often translated as ‘blasphemy’ and with an application of speaking against God in some manner. John 10:35

Obscene talk is “foul speaking... low and obscene speech” (Thayer, 17) This word appears only in this text in the New Testament. However, compare the action to Ephesians 5:3-4 and James 3.

Lying is “to deceive one by a lie, to lie to” (Thayer, 675). Matthew 5:11 and 1 John 1:6.

We are to put all these actions away. Paul follows this list with those attitudes and actions we are to put on, which will be another ‘study sheet’ for us to consider. Let us be that renewed person of God!