

THE VIOLENT DEMANDS OF THE NEW LIFE

COLOSSIANS 03:05–11

Introduction

This is a violent passage of Scripture, a passage that attacks many persons right where they are living. But it is a passage that is desperately needed by us all. It covers the violent demands of the believer's new life in Christ.

- I. The first demand is violent:
put to death all sins that enslave the body and its members (vv. 5-7).
- II. The second demand is violent:
strip off the sins that enslave the emotions and tongue (vv. 8-11).

I. *Colossians 03:05–07 Put to Death Sins that Enslave*

The first demand is violent – put to death the sins that enslave the body and its members. The phrase “put to death” means to act as though the body is dead. The believer is to take the various parts of his body and put them to death in so far as sin is concerned. How does a believer do this? He considers his body to be *hidden in the death of Christ*. He acts as though his body is dead with Christ. And remember: a dead man cannot sin; a dead man can do nothing. Therefore, the believer is dead to sin.

The point is this: it is all an act of the mind or spirit. A person wants to live for God; therefore, he looks at his body and at sin. The only way he can possibly conquer sin is to treat his body as dead to sin or to consider sin as dead to his body. The person has to live as though his body has no part in sin, and sin has no part in his body. But note: this life is possible only in Christ. Christ alone – through the Holy Spirit – can work within the human heart and give it the energy and power to conquer sin *permanently and eternally*. Some men can discipline themselves to overcome some sin, but not *all sin, not permanently and not eternally*. This can be done only through Christ. There is an enormous difference between human discipline and godly control, and that difference is Jesus Christ. (See Ph. 2:13; Col.3:4.)

What sins are to be mortified or put to death? The Bible is very specific, for there are some very specific sins which tend to enslave the human body.

- a. There is the sin of *sexual immorality* (see note, pt. 2, Gal. 5:19-21).
 - b. There is the sin of *impurity* (see note, pt. 3, Gal.5:19-21).
 - c. There is the sin of *lust (pathos)*: passion, craving, strong desire, intense arousal, a driving lust. It is, of course, a desire and craving for the wrong things such as the second and third helping of food, alcohol, drugs, nudity, pornography, suggestive and filthy literature, illicit affairs, extramarital sex, etc.
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Mat 5:28-29 “But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”

Rom 1:26-27 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Gal 5:16-17 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Gal 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

2 Tim 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- d. There is *evil desires* (epithumian kaken): evil desire, a yearning and an aching for all kinds of evil. It is that within a person that pulls him to desire, grasp, grab and take hold of all forms of evil that give pleasure to the body and its members. It is that which drives the man to...

- continue to look
- continue to feel
- continue to touch
- continue to listen
- smell and smell
- seek and seek

1 Th 4:5 Not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God.

James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

1 Pet 2:11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

- e. There is *greed* (pleonexian): craving, grasping, grabbing, desiring to have something. It is desiring to have something when it is not needed; it is desiring more than what we need and more than what we should have. Note that greed is idolatry. If a person looks at something so much that he covets it, he has set it up as a god which he pursues with the energy and effort of his mind and body. (See Eph. 4:17-19; Rom. 13:9.)

Exo 20:17 “You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.”

Jer 6:13 “From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit.”

Ezek 33:31 My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain.

Micah 2:2 They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud a man of his home, a fellowman of his inheritance.

Hab 2:9 “Woe to him who builds his realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin!”

Luke 12:15 Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Col 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

2. There are two strong reasons for putting to death the sins that enslave the body.
 - a. It is such sins that will bring down the wrath of God upon man. The word *wrath* (orge) means anger, but it is not the outburst of anger that quickly blazes up, not the anger that arises solely from emotion. Rather, it is a decisive and a deliberate anger. It is an anger that comes from a thoughtful decision, an anger that comes from the mind because someone has done something evil and hurtful. It is an anger that judges and condemns sin and evil, violence and slaughter, immorality and injustice. It is an anger that hates sin and evil and that metes out a just revenge and equal punishment.

Mat 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”

Rom 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

Rom 2:5,8-9 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

1 Th 1:9-10 *For they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.*

- b. It is such sins that were common to our old life. We used to walk and live in such sins, but not now. What is the difference? Christ. We are *hidden in Christ*. He has saved us from the sins that bring down the wrath of God upon us. To turn back and to begin walking in those sins again would be to deny Christ. And this we must not do...
- lest we break the heart of God by abusing the death of His dear Son
 - lest we bring down the wrath of God upon us

Eph 2:1-2 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

Phil 3:17-21 *Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

1 Pet 4:3-5 *For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do — living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

Jude 1:17-21 *But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

II. Colossians 03:08–11 Strip off Sins that Enslave

The second demand is also violent — strip off the sins that enslave the emotions and tongue. The picture is that of putting off or stripping off clothes.

1. There are six sins that are to be stripped off. Note: all six have to do with either deep-seated emotions or else the tongue — reactions and feelings against another person.

- a. There is the sin of *anger* (orgen): (see Eph. 4:26-27).
- b. There is the sin of *rage* (thumon): (see Gal. 5:19-21).
- c. There is the sin of *malice* (kakian): deep-seated feelings against a person, hatred that lasts on an on, intense and long-lasting bitterness against a person.

1 Cor 5:8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

Eph 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Col 3:8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips.

1 Pet 2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind.

- d. There is the sin of *slander* (blasphemian): speech that insults, hurts, injures and shows contempt. It is railing at someone.

Acts 18:6 But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

1 Tim 1:20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

James 2:6-7 But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Rev 16:11 And cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

- e. There is the sin of *filthy language* (aischrologian) (see Eph. 5:4).
- f. There is the sin of *lying* (see Eph. 4:25).
- 2. There are three strong reasons as to why we are to strip off the sins of the emotions and tongue.
 - a. We have put off the *old man* or *old person* (see *Old Self*, Eph. 4:22).

- b. We have put on the *new man* or *new person* (see *New Self*, Eph. 4:24; *Renewed Mind*, Eph. 4:23).
- c. We are all *one body* in Christ (v. 11). Christ has made it possible for us to be adopted as children, sons and daughters, of God. We are all — everyone of us — children of God. We belong to the same family — the family of God. Therefore, there is no place for reacting against each other, no place for...
 - anger
 - rage
 - malice
 - lying
 - filthy talk
 - slanderous, insulting, hurting talk

Note how Scripture covers everything that could possibly cause feelings and divisions between us:

- => race and birth (Greek nor Jew)
- => religion and ritual (circumcision nor uncircumcision)
- => education and culture (Barbarian nor Scythian)
- => social class and wealth and property (bond and free)

Rom 12:5 *So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

1 Cor 10:17 *Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.*

Gal 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Eph 4:13 *Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ■*

EPHESIANS 04:22
OLD PERSON, OLD SELF, OLD MAN

*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires. **Ephesians 04:22***

The “old person, the old self” refers to what a man is *before he accepts Christ*. It is the very *nature of man*, the *natural*, corruptible seed which is passed on from generation to generation and leads to death. It is what is called the nature of Adam. (See *Natural Man*, 1 Cor. 2:14.)

Three things are taught about the old person, the old self in the Scriptures.

1. The believer’s *old person or self* has already been put to death. It was crucified with Christ (Rom. 6:6). When the believer received Christ, God began

immediately to count him buried with Christ and united with Christ in the very likeness of His death. This is the meaning symbolized in baptism.

2. The deeds of the old person, or self have been *taken off* from the believer (Col. 3:9). The power of evil deeds has been broken and the believer is no longer in bondage to them.
3. In this passage, the believer himself is exhorted to *put off the old person or self*. He is told to exercise his own will in putting off the *old man*. He so wills by realizing and acting upon three truths.
 - a. The old person or self, from God's perspective, is counted dead. Therefore, the believer *counts* his old man as already being dead.

Rom 6:11 *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

- - b. The old person or self is recognized as being very much alive. The old man is tempted to *look, taste, feel, think* — to *experience sin*. But the believer rejects the temptation. He refuses to participate in sin. He puts off the old man as he walks day by day.

Rom 6:12-13 *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.*

- - c. The old man (including all creation) is seen aging and dying day by day. The believer realizes that this world and all that is within it, including his old man, is in a constant process of dying. He knows that all is dying because the evil desires of nature are deceitful, and deceit disturbs and destroys relationships — the very nature of things (Eph. 4:22). Such destruction deteriorates and corrupts; it eats away at life and at the balance of things until all things become nothing but decayed matter. Therefore the believer puts off the old man and puts on the new man — by faith in the love of God. When a person believes in the love of God, God responds by loving him so much that He makes a permanent man out of him, a new man who is to live eternally and become a citizen of the new heavens and earth.

Rom 6:6 *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.*

Eph 4:22 *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.*

Col 3:9 *Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.*

1 Pet 4:3 *For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do – living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.*

2 Pet 1:9 *But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. □*

EPHESIANS 04: 23 RENEWED MIND

*To be made new in the attitude of your minds: **Ephesians 04:23***

The believer's mind is to be *renewed* or *made new* (ananeousthai), which means to be, readjusted, changed, turned around and regenerated.

a. The mind of man has been affected by sin. It desperately needs to be renewed. The mind is far from perfect. It is *basically worldly*, that is...

- selfish
- self-centred
- self-seeking
- centred on this world
- centred on the flesh
- centred on this life

Scripture is clear about the corruption of man's mind. The human mind has just been tragically corrupted by man's selfishness and sin. Man's mind...

- has become vain, empty and futile in its *thinking*.

Rom 1:21 *For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

- has become *depraved*.

Rom 1:28 *Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.*

- has become sinful and hostile to God.

Rom 8:7 *The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

- has become blinded by Satan so that it cannot see the light of the gospel.

2 Cor 4:4 *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

- has become of vanity, futility, emptiness.

Eph 4:17 *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.*

- has become focused upon earthly things.

Phil 3:18-19 *For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.*

- has become alienated from God and an enemy to God.

Col 1:21 *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour.*

- has become unspiritual

Col 2:18 *Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.*

- has become corrupted.

Titus 1:15 *To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.*

- b. The mind is renewed or made new by the presence of Christ in the life of the believer. When a person receives the Lord Jesus Christ as His Lord, the person is *spiritually*...
- born again (Jn. 3:3-8; 1 Pet. 1:23).
 - Made into a new person or self (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).
 - Made into a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).
 - given the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16; see vv. 9-15).

What this means is a most wonderful truth, and it is easily seen. When a person receives Jesus Christ into his life, he receives the mind of Christ as well. Christ places His mind into the believer's mind; that is, Christ changes the believer's mind to focus upon God. Whereas the believer's mind used to be centred upon the world, it is now centred upon spiritual matters. The believer's mind is renewed, changed, turned around and regenerated to focus upon God. However, it is critical to remember that only Christ can renew the human mind. Only Christ can implant, *the mind of Christ* within a person. Only Christ can give a person His thoughts and the spirit to *live out* His thoughts.

- c. The believer is to live a transformed life; that is, he is to walk day-by-day *renewing his mind more and more*. He is to allow the Spirit of Christ (the Holy Spirit) to focus his mind more and more upon God and spiritual things.

=> The believer is to love the Lord with all his mind.

Mat 22:37 *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*

=> The believer is to keep his mind upon spiritual things, not carnal or sinful things.

Rom 8:5-6 *Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

=> The believer is to demolish arguments, cast down imaginations and every thought that interrupts his knowledge of God and to captivate every thought for Christ.

2 Cor 10:3-5 *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

=> The believer is not to let his mind be led astray.

2 Cor 11:3 *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

=> The believer is not to fulfil the desires of the sinful nature.

Eph 2:3 *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*

=> The believer is not to walk as the world walks, in the futility of their thinking.

Eph 4:17 *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.*

=> The believer is to be made new in the attitude of his mind.

Eph 4:23 *To be made new in the attitude of your minds.*

=> The believer is to have the same attitude as Christ by walking humbly before God and men.

Phil 2:5 *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

=> The believer is to think only upon the things of praise and excellence.

Phil 4:8 *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.*

=> The believer is to live by the laws of God which God has put into his mind.

Heb 8:10 *This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

=> The believer is to arm himself with the same attitude as Christ in bearing suffering.

1 Pet 4:1 *Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. □*

EPHESIANS 04:24 NEW PERSON OR SELF

And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 04:24

A man *regenerated, renewed, born again* who has become spiritual minded. It is a *new person or self* created by Christ; he has been given a holy nature and an incorruptible life. It is opposed to the *old person or self* with a corrupt nature. It is a man who is...

- in fellowship with God
- obedient to God's will
- devoted to God's service

There are two Greek words translated by the English word *new*. There is the word *neos* which refers to something new that has just been made, but there are already many others existing just like it. There is the word *kainos* which refers to something new, something just made and there is nothing like it in existence. *Kainos* is the word used here. Jesus Christ makes a *new man* entirely — a creation unlike any other creation existing. The Gentile believer is not made into a Jew; neither is a Jewish believer made into a Gentile. Each, through the Lord Jesus Christ, is made into a *new kind of person — a new person or self in God*. Every person *can begin life all over again*; every person can have a new beginning, a new life by coming to Jesus Christ.

How is this possible? By the power of God. When a person believes in God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ — really believes and entrusts his life into the hands of Jesus Christ — God creates the spirit of the person in righteousness and true holiness. God takes the faith of the person and *credits it as the righteousness of Jesus Christ*. God actually credits the person's faith *as the perfect righteousness and holiness of Jesus Christ*. Therefore, the person stands before God in the righteousness and holiness of Jesus Christ. But note: this is not all that God does. He does more marvelous things for the believer — all having to do with creating the believer into a new person.

1. God quickens or makes the spirit of the believer alive. Whereas the believer's spirit was dead to God, God creates it and makes it alive to God.
2. God causes the believer to be born again spiritually.
3. God actually places His divine nature into the heart of the believer.
4. God actually creates a new person or self out of the believer.
5. God renews the believer by the Holy Spirit. □