

sermon notes

July 12, 2026 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Preeminence**
“Becoming What You Already Are” | **Colossians 3:5–11**

- 1) _____ the things that are _____ you
(3:5–6)

- 2) _____ the sinful practices of your _____
(3:7–8)

- 3) Be _____ to yourself—the _____ you
(3:9–11)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Colossians 3:5–11. Explain the use of the word “therefore” in verse 5. How do verses 1–4 provide the foundation for everything Paul commands in verses 5–11? How does this passage connect to Paul’s larger argument in the book of Colossians?

What are the three commands that Paul gives in this passage (see verses 5, 8, and 9)? Condense these three commands into one broad expectation God has for us. Express that in ten words or less.

What are the “earthly” things that Paul tells us to put to death? Is Paul telling us that it is sinful to enjoy things on this earth? How is sexual immorality a corruption of God’s good gift? How do we enjoy the good things on earth that God has given us, while at the same time being heavenly-minded and killing the flesh?

GET PERSONAL

Take a hard look at the vice lists in verses 5 and 8. How are you putting these items to death in your Christian life? Are any of the items on this list getting the best of you? Is this an exhaustive list of vices that trip up Christians? What are some additional vices that you might add to this list (or that you see elsewhere in the NT)?

Take a close look at verses 9–10. How is the new self being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator? What does that renewal look like in your life? What accelerates that renewal, and what hinders it?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Write out a personal prayer that incorporates some of the themes of Colossians 3:5–11. Celebrate your new life in Christ. Write about how God rescued you from the ways that you “once walked.” Add prayers of petition to help you to kill the deeds of your flesh.

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

What does the list of different social, cultural, and ethnic identities in verse 11 have to do with the rest of the passage? How do we interpret and apply this verse in our modern world? How might a local church apply this passage? How should diversity be demonstrated and celebrated in the local church? In the universal church? How should our unity in Christ be demonstrated and celebrated?