

Colossians - Chapter 3
“Why Eat Leftovers From the Garbage Can?”
Colossians 3:5-6

Verse 5

1. Paul has been emphasizing for 56 verses the believer’s position in Christ and the total sufficiency of all that we possess in Christ.
2. But, there is a practical application to all of this. Our position in Christ, and our completeness in Him, should affect our daily actions and behavior. **Titus 2:11-12**
3. Paul reminds these believers that they still have the capacity to sin and live ungodly in this present world. He says, “*Mortify therefore...*”
 - Paul says, “Based on your position in Christ and the life that you now possess in Him, there are some things that have no business in your life, and you need to rid your life of them.”
 - “Mortify” means “to put to death.” It carries the idea of subduing or deadening.
4. When Paul speaks of “*your members*,” he is speaking of the flesh. The flesh is that part of you that desires to walk independently of God, and seeks to gratify your own cravings, instead of living to please God. **Romans 7:18-23**
5. When people get saved, they receive a completely new nature in Christ and the old nature is crucified with Christ (**Romans 6:6**). We learned about the spiritual circumcision that accomplished this spiritual work in **Colossians 2:11**.
6. No longer does the flesh have the power to enslave you in sin, but we must understand that the flesh is still **present**. We carry it with us and **will** carry it until death or the Rapture.
7. So now we are faced with a daily choice. Will I yield to the new law of life that is operative in my spirit, or will I yield to the old law of sin in my flesh that has been overcome and rendered powerless? **Romans 8:2-4, 6:11-13**
8. Once you are saved, the flesh does not have the power to enslave you in and of itself, but you can willingly yield yourself to it and come under it.
 - **Illustration:** A gorilla behind bars at the zoo has no power to overcome me, but if I choose to enter into its cage and provoke it, it certainly can prevail over me. **Romans 13:14**
9. But, as believers, we now have the power to mortify the things that come from our flesh. Paul lists some of these works that come from the law of sin in our flesh:
 - Fornication - Sexual immorality of any kind.
 - Uncleaness - Impurity. (We say about a guy at work, “He is filthy.”)
 - Inordinate affection - This is translated, “*vile affections*” in **Romans 1:26** and is associated with homosexuality. It is sexual desire that has been misplaced.
 - Evil concupiscence - it carries the idea of lustful, sexual cravings that are forbidden by God. It is also translated, “*lusts of their own hearts*” (**Romans 1:24**), “*lust of the flesh*” (**Galatians 5:16**), “*deceitful lusts*”

(**Ephesians 4:22**), “*hurtful lusts*” (**1 Timothy 6:9**), “*youthful lusts*” (**2 Timothy 2:22**), “*servicing divers lusts and pleasures*” (**Titus 3:3**).

- Covetousness, which is idolatry – This is simply an unhealthy longing for things or pleasures, never being satisfied and always wanting more. This is idolatry because it puts earthly things and pleasures before God.
10. The law of sin in your flesh longs for all of these sins, and this is why Paul says to “*Mortify therefore your members...*” These sins belong to the old life of sin and death, and have no place in the life of a believer who has been given a new life and nature in Christ.
 11. No longer should we have an appetite for these things, but develop a new appetite for the things of God. **Romans 8:5-13**

Verse 6

1. Because we have experienced grace and total forgiveness from the hand of God, and because we live in the dispensation of grace, it can be easy for us to forget that God still has a holy hatred for sin and that His feelings haven’t changed.
2. God hates sin and must judge sin. We live in a time of “wrath delayed.” The wrath has been due and ready to fall for nearly 2,000 years. It is only God’s grace that has prevented it from falling. But God is a righteous and just God and will one day make war upon, and judge, the ungodly.
3. Paul reminds these believers that the wrath of God is coming upon unbelievers for the very sins mentioned in verse 5.
4. Paul uses the term “*children of disobedience.*” Why does he use this term to describe unbelievers? cf. **Ephesians 2:2, 5:6**
 - They are people who spurn the gospel of Christ and do not desire the new life that God desires to provide them in Christ. Why? They love their sin and have no desire to change, whatsoever. **John 3:19-20**
 - Therefore, they “*obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**
 - They are the children of disobedience, not just because of their sin, but because of their rejection of sin’s remedy – Jesus Christ. They would rather cling to their sin than cleave to Jesus Christ in faith.
5. So what Paul is basically saying in this verse is, “Why would you want to be involved in things that are characteristic of Christ-rejecting unbelievers?”