



Introduction to “A Line In The Sand”

When we come to faith in Christ, the weapons with which we fight our sinful nature (ie, the flesh) change. We no longer rely upon the elemental spirits of the world. Rather, we rely upon the power of grace which comes by faith in the gospel. Colossians 3:5-17 begins a new section in the letter in which the truths of chapters 1 and 2 now come to bear on practical matters of the heart, life, and relationships. The “If then you have been raised with Christ” from Col 3:1-4 serve as a “line in the sand.” Paul does not want believers to wonder back into their old ways but rather to always live in light of the truth. The benefit of “a line in the sand” is that it brings direction, clarity, and confidence. Being in Christ comes to define (and redefine) one’s relationship with God. If you are in Christ, you no longer need to look anywhere else for identity, power, or satisfaction. This works itself out in the putting off of the

earthly, sensual nature, as well as putting off ungodly speech. It involves putting on Christlike character and fullness, which impacts every area of life.

Colossians Focus:

The preeminence (superiority, excellence, distinguished, surpassing nature) of Christ in all of life (1:18).

Part 7: A Line In the Sand

Text: Colossians 3:5-17

Big Idea: The gospel enables us to face and defeat sin rather than ignore, hide, or manage it.

From the Sermon (add your own notes here):

1. **Put to death your old self (v.5-11)**
 - a. Sensuality
 - b. Speech

2. **Put on the new self (v.12-19)**
 - a. Christlike Character
 - b. Christlike Fullness

Getting Started

What is something (a skill, a hobby, a situation, etc) you have always struggled with or wished you were better at?

What are your favorite clothes or clothing item(s) to wear?

Digging Deeper, Read 3:1-17

1. What are the five behaviors to be put off, listed in 3:5? How are they related to one another? What are the five behaviors listed in verse 8? How are they related to one another?
2. What does it mean that the wrath of God is coming? (v.6) How is the biblical teaching of God's wrath different from the fleshly wrath mentioned in verse 8?
3. What are the five behaviors described in 3:12 to put on? How would you describe the life that flows from these characteristics?
4. What does it look like to let the peace of Christ rule in your heart?
5. In your life (individually, family, small group), how does or could the word of God dwell in you richly? What effect does it have?
6. Read verse 17. What does doing the mundane things of life "in the name of the Lord Jesus" look like? Try to list at least five characteristics.

Live It Out

Pray: Paul encourages thankfulness in our hearts verses 15-17.

Why do you think that is? Can thankfulness exist even in the hard times? What does that look like?

Confess: What area might you struggle with most, that you desire accountability towards:

1. That my sins, past, present, and future, are completely forgiven.
2. That I can live in truth.
3. That God has provided me grace for whatever sin or struggle I am facing.
4. That I can have an attitude of gratefulness in everything.

Act: Meditate on (or Memorize) Colossians 3:1-3, which is a Scripture song we have sung together over the last few weeks.