

Series: Making the Holidays Holy; Sermon: **Two**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **December 2, 2018**

Bible Text explored: Colossians 3: 5-11

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.
[ESV]

Review and application:

1. The believers in Colossae were being pressured by false teachers to submit to certain rules and perform special ceremonies as the right way to grow spiritually to be more holy. Why did Paul say these earthly measures were ineffective? (*Col. 2:23*)
What alternative mindset was essential? (*Col. 3:1-2*)
2. What (v. 5) is the radical action this requires?
What are some desires ruled out by our death to what is earthly?
Why is pursuing them a form of idolatry?
3. *Pastor Josh compared holding on to a private earthly desire to keeping a lion cub as a pet.* Why (vv. 6-7) must we be committed to abandoning such desires?
Why is God's unalterable opposition to sin essential to maintaining justice?
4. Paul zeroes in (v. 8) on unrestrained self-expression. How has the social media phenomenon made this a texting as well as a verbal sin?
5. What vision of renewal (vv. 9-10) should motivate us to die to sin?
6. How (v. 11) should our corporate death to this life enable us to realize Christocentric unity, overriding racial, cultural, and class distinctions?
7. What are some ways that we could put into practice making the holidays holy days this season by committing to this process of "spiritual violence" or "putting sin to death"?
For the advent season specifically, could you begin an advent calendar tradition of reading a Bible verse of the advent story each day leading up to Christmas?
Could you invite some friends to one of the special Christmas Eve services?