



Pointers and questions on Paul's letter to the
COLOSSIANS

Session 7

3:1-11

Killing Off Our Old Pre-Christian Ways

Summary

- 3:1-4** In Christ we died and rose again, so it is appropriate that spiritual realities, not earthly ones, be our focus. Since our destiny is to be with him at his return, we do well to line ourselves up now with what we will be then.
- 3:5-9** Change is not automatic. We must be active co-operators with God in deliberately setting aside the sinful behaviour that marked our old life.
- 3:10-11** But God is at work in us to help the process along, changing us into his image. In this respect we all have Christ in common, regardless of our ethnic or social background.

Questions to get you thinking

1. 'You have been raised' (v1); 'you died' (v3)—both in the past tense. What exactly do these phrases mean?
2. Why don't we as Bible-believing Christians make much use of crucifixes in decorating our places of worship? Could v1 have something to do with it?
3. 'Christ, who is your life' (v4). Could Paul honestly say that of you, as he did of himself? See Philippians 1:21; Galatians 2:20.
4. Pick out the two phrases in v5-11 that lay on our own shoulders the responsibility for rejecting our pre-Christian lifestyle. Are you still working on doing what they command, or have you become a bit slack?
5. Make a list of the specific sins that Paul mentions here.
6. In what sense is 'greed' a form of 'idolatry' (v5)?
7. Note the phrases 'taken off' and 'put on' in v9-10. They are phrases normally used of the taking off and putting on of garments. Talk about how this language fits in—both physically and spiritually—with baptism.
8. Look at the racial and social distinctions in v11. What would be some of the distinctions *today* that are removed in Christ?

