

Sovereign Grace Church
“Living with Jesus II” outline
February 11, 2018

Colossians 3: 5-11

This morning we return to our consideration of what it means to live with Jesus as His disciple. This is not of course our natural disposition. We become Christians by identifying ourselves with Jesus in His life, death, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father. As our representative and substitute Jesus did all that Adam failed to do. But all of this is just the beginning of life as His disciple.

Our Lord did not set out to create a people who claimed His name, but not His character. He came to free a people who were in bondage to sin and remake them as a people in “bondage” to righteousness. As fallen people we find sin the natural thing to do but not the thing we were created to do. We find that, especially in the long term, sin does not suit our purposes. We end up devouring ourselves w/ ourselves and gradually becoming mere shells of an originally very glorious being. So as followers of Christ we are naturally interested of exchanging our natural bondage to the “flesh” for a far more joyous bondage to righteousness as Christ manifested righteousness in His own humanity. This involves a transformation of character.

1. The Mortification of the Old Man

- **Terms Rom. 12: 1**

- **Relation of “members” to vices Rom. 6:13; 7: 23**

2. Vices of the Old Man from which we seek to be purged

- **Fornication**

- **Uncleanness Jms 1: 14-15**

- **Passion/evil desire I Thess. 4: 5**

- **Covetousness Rom. 7:7**

- **Anger**
- **Wrath**
- **Malice**
- **Blasphemy**
- **Filthy language**
- **Lying**

II Thess. 1: 8-10; Gal 5: 25; Gal. 5: 17

3. Putting on the New Man

- **Characteristics II Cor. 4: 16; Rom 12: 2**

Questions for Reflection and Conversation

- 1. What is your vision as a disciple of Jesus? What are you hoping to become? What is He trying to teach you? Are you the same person today that you were ten years ago? What do you see as your most serious issues in becoming more Christ-like?**
- 2. Are there certain “vices” of the flesh that you struggle with more than others? Why can we not just “will” ourselves to change? What is the difference between “character” and an act of “will”? Why is the latter inadequate to generate real and lasting change?**
- 3. Is there such a thing as “righteous” anger? How would it be different than the more regular variety? If anger in itself is not sin, why are we encouraged to forsake it? What about it tends to be hard to manage?**
- 4. Do you desire to be defined by the characteristics of the “new man”? Does our union with Christ involve losing our self-identities as unique creations? What does it involve?**