

## Leader's Guide / for Jan, 21, 2018 sermon / "Getting a Wardrobe makeover-Part 1"

### QUICK REVIEW

What about Mark's illustration of a makeover resonated with you in explanation or clarification of Colossians 3?

### MY STORY

1. Are you an HGTV or DIY Channel watcher? Why do you think those shows are so popular?
2. When you are finished with your old clothes, what do you do with them? Are you a seller? A keeper? A donator?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we move from Chapter 2 to Chapter 3 of Colossians. Read Colossians 2:20 through Colossians 3:10 without the chapter break. What corner is Paul turning here?  
*You might title this transition as "not this, but this." Paul is leaving the discussion of rules and regulations and saying, in contrast, what Christians should do.*
2. In verse 5, Paul gives a list of the sins which he calls our worldly nature (earthly things). In his study "Enemies of the Heart," Andy Stanley discusses four of what Paul would call "worldly nature" hold-overs. We are going to take a closer look at each. As we do, make an honest assessment of yourself. Are there any of these that you have not yet "put to death (v. 5)"?
  - a. Guilt – Guilt says, "I owe you." \*
    - i. Read 1 John 1: 5-10.
    - ii. What happens in our minds and hearts if we live with unconfessed sin?
    - iii. What are the promises of Christ described here? If you were to put these promises (or these verses) in your own words to one of your friends, what would you say?
  - b. Anger – Anger says, "You owe me."
    - i. Read Eph. 4:25-32
    - ii. Why is it difficult to be angry yet not sin?
    - iii. Where have you seen a connection between unresolved anger and unforgiveness? What is the danger here for the person holding on to the anger?
  - c. Greed – Greed says, "I owe me."
    - i. Read Luke 12:13-21
    - ii. How did the "actual" of this encounter differ for the brother from what he expected when he went to Jesus with his problem?
    - iii. Do you think our culture considers greed a sin? How do we describe this attitude without labeling it "greed?"
  - d. Jealousy – Jealousy says "God owes me."
    - i. Read the above statement. When we are jealous, do we think God owes us?
    - ii. Read James 4:1-3
    - iii. What is your heart aching for? If that's too personal a question, answer it for yourself, but as a group, answer this: What would make you really, really happy?

Leaders: There are several places in Scripture where lists specific sins as it does here in Colossians. (Galatians 5:19-21 would be another example.) If we get caught up on lists that include sorcery, idolatry, even filthy language, we may distance ourselves from the sins that can easily still entangle us. The idea behind the short study of the four emotions listed above is to encourage all of us to confront what may be preventing us from “putting on Christ.”

Another avenue of conversation for your group to pursue would be Gal. 5:22-25, the fruit of the Spirit. Here is a list of what we are to “put on.” How possible are these to create without the Spirit’s help? As God asks us to “put off” the sins of our human nature, He doesn’t leave us naked! God wants to replace those ugly, sometimes hidden things with Christlikeness!

### TAKING IT HOME

1. This week, spend some time in absolutely truthful, frank conversation with God about what you feel you can’t “put off.” Where do you need to confess? NAME IT! Ask Him to bless you in the way He knows best – and to reveal His love to you along the way.
2. As we are trying to “put on the new self” (Col. 3:10), we must also put off the old self; otherwise, we will be carrying around a burden we are not meant to bear. If something in this week’s message or in tonight’s lesson struck a chord with you, again, name it, then pursue it!

Here are some questions to get you started:

- What are you feeling guilty for? Confess your sin to God and to whomever you have hurt.
- What does your giving say about your heart?
- Where do you see unresolved anger? How can you take steps to resolve it, this week?

\*The four emotions and the “I owe you” – type labels were taken from the Andy Stanley book, “Enemies of the Heart: Breaking Free for the Four Emotions that Control You.”