

**Rooted - Part 9**  
**“Stop Wearing What You Buried“**  
Colossians 3:4-17

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It's pretty ugly if we think about it. Our clothes were buried after we got rid of them, and then we go to the landfill and say, *"Yeah, I know it's got to be in this area,"* and we pull them out of the landfill and say, *"Hey, I think these will clean up,"* and then we put them on because we didn't *really* mean to throw them away in the first place - or actually we *did* mean to, but now we have a regret because they're not with us anymore bringing us comfort.

Paul, from a prison cell in Rome, writing a letter to a church he'd never been to, but was established as a result of his work, addressed an important issue - *if Christ is our life, then our life should look like him.* This isn't just about belief - it's about *transformation*. God is looking for those who will say, *"Yes, I believe, but I also want to be transformed. I want to be changed. I don't want to stay where I'm at. I'm thankful that Jesus met me where I was, but I know he loves me so much that he won't just leave me there."*

Every time the gospel is preached, *faith* comes. Romans 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the *Word of God* - which actually means *"the message of Christ."* That's literally how it reads in the Greek. So, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the *message of Christ*. When we hear the gospel - *the good news* - faith is stirred up. Every time Franklin Graham gets on CNN or Fox News, he never addresses anything they ask. They'll ask him, *"What's your opinion on the border issue?"* or, *"What's your opinion on the war?"* Then he begins to preach the gospel every single time.

They know what they're going to get when they invite him on the show but, every time, all he does is what his daddy Billy did. He preaches the gospel. What happens? Faith comes. It's not just about belief, it's about a change - a real transformation. The word "transformed" means *"changed in your form."* We actually *look* different. We *talk* different. We *walk* different. We drive our *car* different. We all need some help there, right? This works in real life.

### Three points:

1] **Kill it** - Just *kill* it. We need to kill what's killing *us*. What's killing us is sin - sin that we put away - sin that's under the blood of Christ - sin where we had decided *"we're not going to go down that road anymore."* There is the miracle of resurrection in our time because we have *"resurrection parties"* almost every day. We resurrect the "old man," that old sin-nature that's been dead, buried, put away, but yet, somehow seems to creep back up and we get caught in these besetting patterns - these besetting sins that take us back down the same old road. So, we need to *kill* it. We need to kill what's killing us.

Colossians 3:5-6 NLT

*"So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming."*

Even as we're declaring that and saying that, something is taking a hit. *"Whoa, wait a minute. I thought that was all handled. I thought when Jesus came and took our sin on the cross, I thought that the wrath of God was satisfied."* We can't be naive. God is a God of justice. He is just. He is righteous. He is trustworthy - and, he is truthful - that means *full of truth*. Is he gracious? He is. Is he merciful? *Yes, absolutely.* But, he is coming. *"Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming."* Now, will those sins be judged in the life of a follower of Jesus? The Bible says this, *"Judgment begins at the house of God."*

Sometimes we play too close to the fence. We play a little too close to the fire and we get burned because of these sins. The anger of God is coming. We know his wrath will be poured out at one point. But, because we're in Christ and covered by his blood, we don't want to dance that close to the fire or ride that close to the fence. *Don't flirt with it.*

Colossians 3:7-8 NLT

*"You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language."*

We play too nice with sin sometimes - or we make assumptions - *"Well, you know, that doesn't have any power over me according to God's Word."* Well, it does if we let it - and we have to say, *"I am not going to play with this. I'm going to kill it. I'm not going to entertain it. I'm going to kill it."* If we pet sin too long, one day it will turn and bite *us*. Don't "manage" sin. Don't negotiate with it. Kill it. This is not sin *management*. That's not what Jesus died for. He didn't die so we could just keep it in a category over here in another place. We can get rid of it, and then we can go on about our business.

Here's the thing - Jesus strips away every label. Jesus comes in and says, *"Quit labeling sin just so you can control it and keep it hidden away somewhere else. Don't just manage sin, because you can't manage what is in control of you."* The truth of the gospel is that we've been given control over sin. *"Sin shall not have dominion over you any longer."* That's the *gospel*. That's *good news*, unless we submit to it because we think it's not still a force. So, we've got to kill it. Don't manage it - *kill* it. Don't negotiate with it - *kill* it. Don't play with it or pet it - *kill it*.

Galatians 5:24 NLT

*"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there."*

Another way to say that is - *kill it*. They've *killed* it. They *crucified* it. They drove *nails* into it. They've hung it out to dry. They've killed those passions and those sinful natures. Just being practical here, we're to cut off what *feeds* it. What is feeding the besetting sin that keeps sneaking up on us? What's sneaking up behind us? We don't think about it and then all of a sudden it's there and then we entertain it for a second. We *pet* it. We ride too close to the fence. What is it that's sneaking up on us? Here's the practical thing: cut off what *feeds* it. Sometimes we just need to cut off these things and some of the apps that are feeding these desires. This needs to be real because we need to get real with *Jesus*.

Cut off what feeds it and expose what hides it. Light and dark cannot occupy the same space, and it doesn't take that much light to drive out darkness when we expose it. When the light comes in, darkness has to flee - it just dissipates and goes away. Down in a cellar at night, just a little pen-light is all it takes. The whole *space* lights up - and the darker it is, the less light it takes to expose the darkness. Let the light expose what is hidden and what is being. And here's why. Scripture tells us that what is done in secret will one day be shouted from the rooftops. We've all seen this happen over and over.

We've all watched this happen - professional Christian leaders taken down by sin that was hidden, that was coddled, that was petted, that was protected. and they thought to themselves, *"This really isn't hurting anybody else."* And they've been indicted for it and gone to prison. They were shamed and their families were destroyed because of a pet sin - because they chose to *pet* it instead of *kill*ing it. We're talking about what can kill us and what is killing people.

Refuse to excuse it. This is where we get strong. This is where we say, *"No, not today, Satan. No - not going to happen here. No, demon. Not going to happen here today. I see you. And by the way, let me just remind you, I know where I'm going when I die, but let me tell you where you're headed!"*

Remind Satan of his future. Every time he reminds us of our past, we should remind him of his future. Here's the big idea - if we don't kill *it*, it will keep killing *our* momentum and our growth. Sin will also take away from us our *confidence*. It'll take away our security. We all know what it's like to walk confidently. We've had seasons where things were hitting on all eight cylinders and life was going good and and we were *feeling* good. We were feeling strong and overcoming and we were standing on the Word and the Word was filling our buckets and we were leaking that life out everywhere we went.

About the time we started to think, "*I've got a handle on this,*" was the day when we were riding way too close to the fence again. This is not about *self*-confidence. Our friend Bill Loveless taught us this is about *Christ*-confidence. It's confidence in *Jesus*, and he is our Source. He's the one who establishes these things. We're simply getting in step with him and in alignment with him.

**2] Wear it** - we wear *sin*? No, no, no. Wear what *fits*.

Colossians 3:10 NLT

*"Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him."*

It's interesting about identity. We *wear* our identities. At worship rehearsal on Thursday nights, there are all these trucks in the parking lot. It looks more like a men's breakfast! Why? It's an *identity* thing. We can look at how people dress and what they drive most of the time. We can see what they're projecting in how they identify themselves and by what they wear. Paul is saying, "*Put on your new nature like a garment - like a jacket.*" We can walk into Walmart in sweats. No big deal, but we're not going to walk into *Neiman Marcus* in sweats. If we're going to buy a car or a house, we're going to dress up a little bit.

As we put on our "new nature," we're getting to know Jesus and we're becoming *like him*. The New Living Translation suggests there's a progression here. We're *getting to know* him. In other words, we may not know everything at first. We should be careful of our expectations if we just came to Jesus and stepped into the journey. We just got introduced to Jesus and now we're connected to our Heavenly Father, but there's also another Person - the Holy Spirit - who's coming into our life right now and beginning to *shift* things. In fact, some things won't *look* the same. Some things won't *taste* the same. Some things won't *feel* the same. *Why?* Because we're *changing* - we're becoming more like *him*. And this will continue to happen.

Colossians 3:11 NLT

*"In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us."*

We wear this identity in Christ. We kill sin, but we also put something else on. We don't just remove something out of our life without filling it back up. We strip off those old grave clothes but then we put on the *new jacket*. We put on the new *identity*. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in us all. Understand that he's talking to believers here, not just anybody. *"He lives in all of us [Christians]."*

Colossians 3:12-13 NLT

*"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you."*

That means *anyone* - everyone. *"Make allowance for each other's faults. Forgive anyone who offends you."* It doesn't say if they ask you for forgiveness, because the power of forgiveness is in our hands. It's in our heart. We activate a spiritual force when we forgive someone and they didn't ask for it. If we sit around *waiting* to be asked, we may be sitting around for the rest of our life. But when we step into our new identity, we put on "the clothes." We're now his son - his daughter. We're walking with him. We're getting to know him, and we've got him "on."

Then, when we show up in a room, people may not know exactly what it is, but something's different. The grave clothes are gone because we've killed that. And now, we're alive to him. Romans chapter six says that we are buried with Christ in baptism, but we are now raised to walk in newness of life.

Verse 13: *"Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."* That's a challenge and it's a *mandate*. It's interesting how in the Lord's prayer which we pray, the model prayer says, *"Father, forgive me my offenses as I forgive those who offend me."* If we're unwilling to forgive those who offend us, then we shouldn't expect to be forgiven. That sounds transactional, doesn't it? - because it is. We *kill* sin. We *wear* Christ. And we walk in forgiveness, mercy, grace, and tender-hearted compassion - all the things he just listed.

Verse 14: Paul says this, *"Clothe yourselves with Love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony."* Harmony means that notes that are not the same somehow physically relate to each other in the way they vibrate together, and they create harmony. This is how we should exist. We don't all look alike. We don't all sound alike. We're different. Harmony is the co-relation of different notes - different sounds - coming together and working together. Paul is saying that's what love looks like - harmony.

Galatians 3:26 NLT

*“For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”*

In other words, not everyone is a child of God. Because if we're not in faith, we're not a child of God. We've not stepped over that line. But for those of us who are, it's through faith in Christ Jesus, and all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ. We put on “the jacket.” We put on the *new clothes*. Put on kindness when it's inconvenient. It's easy to be nice and kind when it's convenient or when everybody's on the same page, but harmony dictates that when we're playing a different note than somebody else, we can still harmonize.

Put on patience when we're pressured. Try driving down Main Street on a weekend in Fredericksburg. Patience is easy if there's no pressure. And lastly, put on love every single time. Discord is not harmony. It doesn't work. It doesn't sound good. It's like fingernails on a chalkboard - the worst sound on the planet - it's the sound of discord, not unity. We're supposedly all part of the same race called the *human race*. If we're in Christ, this is our wardrobe. All these things we just talked about Jesus - his heart, his nature, his character, who he is ...*that's our wardrobe*.

## **Prayer**

*Father, we honor You. We bless You. We thank You. Help us to think through what it means to kill what's killing us. Lord, take Your Word, and let it take root in our hearts. We pray for every one here that our hearts would be good soil - that we could absorb the truth of what You're speaking to us, and that we would allow You to cultivate and grow in our hearts that which You desire. God, give us courage to respond now and in the days to come in the ways that You're calling each of us to respond to truth. May we not run and hide. May we not dig up the grave clothes, but, may we put on the new clothes with confidence and faith and assurance that You are with us and You are helping us every single moment. We give You the glory and the praise, and we pray all these things in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*