

Good News Church GA
Series - Uncomfortable
Sermon Title - "Sin-sitive"
by Drue Warner
10-8-23

Why is this message important?

This message is important because **having a Biblical understanding of sin directly affects everything else in our pursuit of following Christ.**

1. Understanding of the Good News (i.e., love, repentance, forgiveness, grace)
2. Relationships with other people (i.e., evangelism, suffering, sin, etc.)
3. Relationship with God (i.e., satisfaction, sanctification)

GOAL: My intention is not to give us ammunition for judgment and condemnation of other people's sin, but to expose the depth of our own sin, such that each one of us believes that we are each the worst sinner in the room.

- **Why?** The greater the sin, the greater the grace we experience from Christ's forgiveness. And, the greater the sin, the greater the humility and patience we'll have with other people.

We are a "Sin-sitive" culture

- We associate more with the **sin** that we love than the **Son** that God sent to set us free from the sin that we love
- At the same time, as followers of Jesus swimming against the current of secular culture, we must hold firm to truth in a spirit of love and compassion, **being sensitive to the unknown burdens, abuse, and pain** that may be fueling the sinful lifestyles of those around us.
- **OBSERVATION:** iPhone doesn't know the word "sin." It hears "sun" or "sun full."
 - That's us! That's the flesh (does not want to be exposed).

"Sin-sitive" Outline

1. Sin (def):
2. Symptoms of Sin
3. The Source of Sin
4. Stubbornness
5. The Solution

Context: Creation > The Fall (Genesis 3)

MANKIND'S SIN

*For I was **born a sinner** - yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.*

- Psalm 51:5

*As the Scripture says (Ps. 14), "No one is good - not even one. No one has real understanding; **no one is seeking God**. All have turned away from God; all have gone wrong. No one does good, not even one. - Romans 3:10-12*

*¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do. Instead, **I do the very thing I hate**. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But, I can't help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things. ²⁴ **O wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?** ²⁵ **Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!***

- Romans 7:15-17, 24-25

*Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are **controlled by the Holy Spirit** think about things that please the Spirit. If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is **life and peace**. - Romans 8:5-6*

GOD'S STANDARD

"Be holy for I am holy." – Leviticus 21:8, Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 1:16

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q:4 What is God? God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all. 1 John 1:5

Day after day and night after night they keep on saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty - the One who always was, who is, and who is still to come." Revelation 4:8

Your throne is founded on two strong pillars - righteousness and justice. Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants. Psalm 89:14

O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness; you cannot tolerate the slightest sin. Psalm 5:4

1. SIN (def):

Sin (def): an offense against religious or moral law (Webster); Sin is any want (lack) of conformity unto, or transgression of (breaking), the law of God (Westminster SC # 14); unholy thoughts, motives, actions, and inactions (Warner)

- *"The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life."*
– 1 John 2:16

WHAT IS SIN?

Anger Arrogance Bitterness Cursing Dishonesty Disobedience
Disrespect Drunkenness Fault-finding Gluttony Godlessness Gossip
Greed Hard-hearted Hate Hypocrisy Idolatry Impatience Lazy
Lustful Malicious Murder Over-Indulgence Pride Quarrelsome
Resentful Sabbath-breaking Selfishness Sexual Sin Slander
Stealing Stingy Unbelief Unforgiveness Unkindness Unloving
Unmerciful Worry

*Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5, Matthew 5-7, Romans 1:21-32,
1 Corinthians 6:7-20, 1 Corinthians 13, Galatians 5:19-21,
Ephesians 4:17-32, Colossians 3:5-8, 1 Timothy 1:3-11*

THE HEART

- “Anger = Murder, Lust = Adultery.” – Jesus (Matthew 5)
- Anything good done without love. (1 Corinthians 13)
- Attitudes - Our responses can be just as sinful

SIN IS SEDUCTIVE

*Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by **their own evil desire** and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death. – James 1:14-15*

“like an ox being led to slaughter” – Proverbs 7

A Word about Sexual Sin

The purpose of marriage is far greater than us in the here and now. Marriage is given as a picture of Christ (the Bridegroom) and the Church (His Bride).

- *References: Isaiah 62:5, Hosea, Ephesians 5:25-33, Revelation 21:2*

As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

- Isaiah 62:5

Everything outside of the Bridegroom & Bride marriage union is sin.

- Sex outside of marriage
- Pornography
- Polygamy
- Same sex relationships

2. SYMPTOMS – guilt, shame, separation, depression, hopelessness, death

- *We respond to hurt, abuse, pain and sin by running to God or away from God for care and comfort.*
- We medicate to deal with these symptoms ourselves > PRIDE

3. THE SOURCE

- Nature (us)
*For I was **born a sinner** - yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. - Psalm 51:5*
- Nurture (others) / environment and relationships around us
*"**Bad company corrupts good morals.**" – 1 Corinthians 15:33*

4. STUBBORNNESS

*"For when I brought your ancestors out of Egypt and spoke to them, I did not just give them commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices, but I gave them this command: **Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people.** Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you. But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. **They went backward and not forward.** From the time your ancestors left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again I sent you my servants the prophets. But they did not listen to me or pay attention. They were stiff-necked and did more evil than their ancestors.'" - Jeremiah 7:22-26*

Where does stubbornness come from? PRIDE

- *"There's nothing wrong with arrogance."* – Andrew
- The call to repentance is offensive to prideful people (all of us).
 - **Pride is Defensive** – *"There's nothing wrong with me!"* (I've got it)
 - **Humility is Submissive** – *"There's a lot wrong with me!"* (I need help)
- **OBSERVATION:** The idea of **"Accepting Jesus"** does not lend itself to a humble (submission) attitude. The idea of **"Being Saved (Rescued)"** does lend itself to humility and submission.

5. SOLUTION

THE WORLD: All sin comes with **guilt and shame**. The way that world is, addressing the reality of guilt and shame is not by running from it to God, but **running more deeply into it**, believing that if they enter more fully into their shame, it will lead to freedom. It does not.

THE GOSPEL: The only solution to deal with the guilt and shame of our sin, is to allow ourselves to be completely wrecked by it such that we would, **by faith, throw ourselves on the mercy of God, confess** our sins, **repent**, and **receive** not only forgiveness, but also relationship, acceptance, and love.

- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. – 1 John 1:9-10*

- **The Prodigal Son** got to a point of **desperation and need** which led to humility and a desire to return to the father, broken, and willing to submit to the father's authority with no expectation of his love. **What he received instead was an abundance of love that he knew he didn't deserve.**

IMPORTANT: Relationship with Christ is the priority. Behavior change is a by-product.

- **Pharisees had the corner on behavior change.** They cleaned the outside of the cup but the inside was filthy. It doesn't work! Our hearts are where the real problems lie, and behavior change leaves our hearts unaffected.
- **"DON'T DO IT" DOESN'T WORK (Colossians 2:20-23 summarized)**
 - *Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? These rules... lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.*
- **If our desires don't change, our behavior won't change.** Jesus and the power of His Spirit are the only ways to change our desires.
 - *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*
– Ezekiel 36:26-27
 - *For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.* – Philippians 2:13
 - *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.* – 2 Peter 1:3
- **There's nothing better than when our desires align with God's desires!**

APPLICATION - OTHERS ARE STRUGGLING

Love, Kindness, Grace, and Truth

- Listening goes a long way.
- *"I'm not your mother."* – Steve Brown
- We're all strugglers.

We can't expect non-Believers to behave like Believers. We still treat them with love and truth, but it looks a little different (similar to how we treat our children and our neighbor's children).

- **LOVE** (*"The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself through love."*
– Galatians 5:6b)
- **TRUTH** (God's Word is our greatest source of truth)

- **Feelings can be deceptive and can lead us away from God, if not interpreted through the lens of truth.**
 - *“In a biblical world and life view, what is true determines what is desirable and ethical. The world has this in reverse.”*
– Rosaria Butterfield

APPLICATION - I’M STRUGGLING

Acknowledge, Confess, Repent ... TRUST JESUS.

- **QUOTE:** *“When God shows you your weakness and you think he has forgotten you, you get broken at the wrong place. God wants to break us at the point of our pride, and we let ourselves get broken at the point of our trust.”* - C. John Miller (from “Saving Grace”)

IDENTIFYING IDOLS – Are we willing to turn everything over to Jesus (i.e., material possessions, relationships, vocation, finances, sexuality, etc.)? Whatever is not turned over, is exposed as an idol that is a barrier in our relationship with God. NOTE: We all have them, but we can’t hang onto them.

CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

“No confidence in the flesh.” instead, *“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

– Paul (Philippians 3:4, 1:6)

CONTENTMENT

TEXT *⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.*

– Philippians 3:7-8

Denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following Jesus (Matt. 16:24) looks different for all of us, but it is what we are called to as followers of Christ.

- Calling those things “not sin” which the Bible says are sin, keeps us from the necessary grace, acceptance, and forgiveness that Jesus secured for us on the cross and in his resurrection.
- A follower of Christ is not someone whose belief is such that it’s only in their head, but someone whose belief has made it to their heart and is flowing out through their life. It’s someone who, by God’s grace, has submitted to the love and Lordship of Jesus, “pushed their pile” across the table, taken up their cross, and gone “all in.”

Satan’s Lie - If we love a particular expression of sin and it's our natural bent to engage in that behavior (whatever that sin may be), then it must be because God made me that way and it must be okay.

We all sin because we love sin, and we love sin because we're sinners.

COMMUNITY - *We all struggle. We need Jesus, but we also need each other.*

CONCLUSION - *Abandon your self-salvation effort, run to Jesus, repent of your sin, submit to His love, and TRUST His good plans for you.*

James 4:7-10

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

And THAT’S Good News!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Church Membership Vow

“Imagine making a public statement like this:

‘Attention, everyone in my new church family. I thought you should know something about me. I am a self-deceiver. I lie to myself. I think I’m always right, and I especially think I’m right when I’m doing something wrong. If you want to see me get really defensive, then point out my sin when I don’t want it pointed out. I will fight you tooth and nail, but please be aware of something. The more that I try to deny my sin and keep it in the darkness, the more I need you to help bring it into the light. Fight for me, not with me. Battle for me even if it feels like it is against me. Please pray for me. If I am kicking, screaming, and throwing punches, then please know I am not thinking clearly. I am telling you this now while I am thinking clearly, because I know that when the time comes, I will be blind to what is going on. I am asking you to step in. Spiritually tackle me to the ground. Help me to detox from my sin. Help me to starve myself from the poison I have been gorging myself on. Be gentle, but please help me see the consequences of my sin. Be loving enough to help me to see what I can’t see. This is the vow I’m making to you: if all of you see my sin clearly and I don’t see it, then I give you my word today that I will trust your word and not mine. In those moments, you will be right and I will be wrong, but don’t forget I won’t see it then. So please don’t give up on me! Pursue me. Pray for me. Challenge me and love me back to Jesus. Please help me remember that my sins cost Jesus His life, and I cannot find life in the same place that brought about His death. Do not let me profane the name of Christ or pollute what He has done for me.’”

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

GOD’S LOVE

“I have loved you deeply,” says the Lord. Malachi 1:2

I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3

You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book. Psalm 56:8

Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for a child she has borne? But, even if that were possible, I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on my hand. Isaiah 49:15, 16

God showed how much He loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love. It is not that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:9, 10

The unfailing love of the Lord never ends! By His mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore I will hope in Him!" Lamentations 3:22-24

THE HEART

Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

- James 4:17

As the Scripture says, "No one is good - not even one. No one has real understanding; no one is seeking God. All have turned away from God; all have gone wrong. No one does good, not even one. - Romans 3:10-12

For the sinful nature is always hostile to God - it never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That is why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. - Romans 8:7, 8

For I was born a sinner - yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. - Psalm 51:5

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. - Romans 3:23

"The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I know! I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve." - Jeremiah 17:9, 10

*And the Lord was pleased with the sacrifice and said to Himself, "I will never again curse the earth, destroying all living things, even though **people's thoughts and actions are bent toward evil from childhood.** - Genesis 8:21*

*All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. **We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else.** - Ephesians 2:3*

***If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth.** But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from every wrong. **If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that His Word has no place in our hearts.** - 1 John 1:8-10*

***For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all other sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.** - Matthew 15:19*

*"When I spoke, you did not listen. **You deliberately sinned - before my very eyes - and chose to do what you know I despise.**" Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says; "You will starve, but my servants will eat. You will be thirsty, but they will drink. You will*

be sad and ashamed, but they will rejoice. You will cry in sorrow and despair, while my servants sing for joy. - Isaiah 65:12b-14

*¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do. Instead, **I do the very thing I hate.** ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But, I can't help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things. ²⁴ **O wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?** ²⁵ **Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!***
- Romans 7:15-17, 24-25

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace. - Romans 8:5,6

POWER OF THE SPIRIT

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. – Titus 2:11-14

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. – 2 Peter 1:3

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. ¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." – Romans 8:5-15

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. – Galatians 5:16-25

WHAT IS SIN?

*²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ **Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.** ²⁵ **They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.** ²⁶ **Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.***

– Romans 1:21-32

*⁷ The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?⁸ Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. ⁹ **Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.** ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.¹² “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸ **Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.** ¹⁹ **Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.** – 1 Corinthians 6:7-20*

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: **sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.** I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- Galatians 5:19-21

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. 20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, **to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.** 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and **do not give the devil a foothold. 28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.** - Ephesians 4:17-32

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: **sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.** 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. - Colossians 3:5-14

³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴ or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. ⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Some have departed from these and have

turned to meaningless talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. ⁸ We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ **We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality (arsenokoites), for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹ that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.** – 1 Timothy 1:3-11