

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

*Greater Than: Sin*

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*November 15, 2020*

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** If you could become an expert in anything, what would it be?

**Reading:** Colossians 3:1-17

### Outline:

- I. Identity in Christ (v. 1-4)
  - a. We often try to create our own identities, but these will one day fail us.
  - b. When we find our identity in Christ, our identity and future hope is in Him.  
**Q: *Why do identities outside of Christ look attractive to us?***
- II. Kill (v. 5-9a)
  - a. We are to kill sexual immorality and sins of speech, because these sins damage both the person committing the sin and the person who the sin is inflicted upon.
  - b. If we don't kill these sins, they will kill us, divide us, and dehumanize us.  
**Q: *Why should we care about killing the sins that Paul mentions here?***
- III. Clothe (v. 12-14)
  - a. In light of our identity in Christ, we should clothe ourselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love.
  - b. When the peace of Christ rules our lives, we will discover a freedom we didn't know was possible.  
**Q: *Why do we need to depend on Jesus if we are to be truly free?***

### Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we fight against the tendency to find our identity in things like our career and political affiliation when it has become so common in our society to do exactly that?
- 2) Do you ever struggle to kill the sins Paul mentions in these verses?
- 3) What are some practical steps we can take to cut off the "supply lines" of our sins?
- 4) How would you respond to someone who claims that there is no way to find freedom through these oppressive moral rules that Paul talks about?

### Suggestions for further study:

- Ephesians 2:22-24 **Q: *What would be the characteristics of this "new self" we are to put on?***
- Romans 8:1 **Q: *How does this verse remind us of the freedom we have when our identity is in Christ?***
- John 1:12-13 **Q: *How do we take on the identity of children of God?***

**Closing Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we thank you that in your grace you dealt with our fundamental problem by laying your life down for us, that we might be forgiven. As we live into the identity we have in you, we ask that you shape our activities to reflect that identity. Teach us to be people that kill the sin in our lives and put on compassion, humility, and love. Lord, we turn to you to again and again shape us, allowing us to better reflect you in this world. We pray this in Jesus's name, Amen.