

Bonfire of the Vanities
Colossians 3:1-11, Deuteronomy 12:1-7
October 15, 2017

1. You _____ and are _____ with Christ.
Colossians 3:1-4 ***¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.***

2. The Old Testament warns us to _____ idols.
Deuteronomy 12:2-4 ***²Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains, on the hills and under every spreading tree, where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods. ³Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places. ⁴You must not worship the Lord your God in their way.***

3. The New Testament calls us to _____ the “earthly nature.”
Colossians 3:5-11 ***⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.***

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- What's holding you back?
- What is keeping you from being the powerful vessel of blessing and agent of change that God created and saved you to be?
- What blocks you from the abundant life of love, joy, peace and so on that God wants you to enjoy?
- Can you name the chains that bind you?
- The stumbling blocks that trip you up?

1. You died and are raised with Christ

Colossians 3:1-4 ¹ ***Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.***

2. The Old Testament warns us to destroy idols.

Deuteronomy 12:2-4 ² ***Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains, on the hills and under every spreading tree, where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods. ³ Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places. ⁴ You must not worship the Lord your God in their way.***

→ Write down things that might be idols in your life.

- An idol is anything that comes between you and God.
- Anything you place as high or higher than God.
- Might be a famous person. Singer, actor, sports figure.

- Career.
- Money/Materialism (See Colossians 3:5 “**Greed, which is idolatry.**”)
- Family. (Matthew 10:7 “**Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.**”)
- Nation (Philippians 2:10-11) ... **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**
- Church, denomination, religion.

3. The New Testament calls us to kill the “earthly nature. Colossians 3:5-11⁵ ***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.***

→ Write down elements of the earthly nature, or flesh, or “old man” that hold you back.

- Habits or addictions.
- TV. Internet.

Bonfire of the Vanities

- Girolamo Savonarola in Florence, Italy.
- Medici
- February 7, 1497 (Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras)
- Books,
- Sheet music
- Clothing
- Jewelry
- Art work: Sandro Botticelli
- People wanted to get these things out of their lives.
- WHAT WOULD YOU BURN?
- Write them down on the bulletin insert.

Our own Bonfire of the Vanities.

- Hopelessness.
- Negativity and pessimism.
- Lack of faith ...
- These are also vanities.

- Write them on bulletin insert.
- Surrender them to Jesus Christ.
- Let Him break those chains.
- Take them to the grill outside.
- I know we've already nailed them to the cross.
- But we need to do this constantly and continually.
- Once again, and again and again, let Him set you free from the things that hold you back.
- Incinerate them. Burn them to a crisp.