

## Colossians 3:5–11

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

## Colossians 3:5

MEMORY VERSE

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. **Colossians 3:5**

Have you ever had an argument with your teen about the way he or she chooses to dress? Disagreements over wardrobe are among the most common sources of discord between parents and teens. In your mind, you may have a concept of what clothing will look best on your teen to compliment his or her physique and to cover up those areas you believe should be concealed. But did you know God has something in mind for your wardrobe choices, too?

Read Colossians 3:5–11. Paul wrote to the Church at Colosse, concerned about old sinful habits they were continuing even though they now claimed to be followers of Christ. Paul encouraged them to take off the old sinful habits and put on the new habits that were from God and had everything to do with godly living.

What is in your spiritual closet? Are you dressing like your old self? Do you still have hints of sexual immorality, greed, drunkenness, dishonesty, or other things in your life? If you know Jesus, these things are no longer part of who you are. These things belong to the old self. But God doesn't tell us to get rid of the old wardrobe without providing something better for us to wear. Read Colossians 3:12 to learn about the wardrobe God has picked out for you.

Although your student might continue to be a challenge to you in his or her choices of what to wear, be an encourager. Encourage your student to think not only of what he or she is wearing in the way of clothes, but also how to dress as far as the old nature versus the new nature is concerned. It is better than anything else hanging in the closet.

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

Students think of a closet in the house that needs to be cleaned out. The family gathers at that closet. Discuss: **How do we determine what to keep and what to throw out?**

### Explore . . .

A family member reads Colossians 3:5–11. Discuss: **What did Paul tell the Colossians they needed to “put to death?” What other imagery did Paul use to describe this process? If we take off the old sinful habits like old clothes, what are we to put on as new?**

### Transform . . .

Family members find a hanger for everyone. Wrap a piece of paper around each hanger so it resembles a dry cleaner's hanger. Another family member reads Colossians 3:12 aloud. Each family member should choose a piece of the “new self” wardrobe they want to consciously put on this week. Family members write their name and their chosen characteristic on their hangers, then commit to pray for one another in receiving this new characteristic of Christ. Hangers may be placed in the coat closet to be revisited as updates come in throughout the week.

*Pray that your family members will take off the old sinful habits and allow God to replace them with a whole new wardrobe of His attributes.*