

# BEYOND CONFLICT

September 4 & 5: Lazy People

## Series Overview

Some people are difficult to live with. They may cross your path every day at work, at school, at home or at church. They may be critical, phony, inconsistent or cruel. Each of us needs to learn how to respond to these people. We need to know when to confront, encourage and forgive, because we are supposed to live at peace with everyone.



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## Sermon Highlights

*Colossians 3:23, Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though working for the Lord and not for men.*

### Question:

What is the difference between running the race of life for man versus running the race for the Lord.

*Colossians 3:1-17*  
*1 Corinthians 9:25-27*

### Answer:

The difference is self rather than selflessness. It is working for a perishable crown instead of an imperishable crown.

## Devotion is defined as profound dedication, to surrender all of one's self.

Example of misguided devotion: *Luke 18:18-25*

Example of true devotion to Christ: *Acts 20:22-24*

## Christ-Consciousness and Self-Consciousness

Christ deserves your profound dedication, your devotion and your total surrender. Will you give it to Him today?

### On laziness...

- Laziness travels so slowly that poverty soon overtakes him. –Benjamin Franklin
- *If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his hands are idle, the house leaks. –Ecclesiastes 10:18*
- *A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing. –Proverbs 20:4*
- *We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. –Hebrews 6:12*



**Take it home ... Practical Applications**

This week take some time to ask yourself: How have I run the race of life so far? How will I choose to run from this point on? Ask God to help you to live a life of complete surrender to Him.



## Take it to the source ... Bible Study

**Introductory question:** What is your favorite way to spend a lazy day? How often do you get to do that?

### Read *Colossians 3:1-17*.

1. What are *things that are above* (verse 2)? How often do you think about such things? What can you do to make these part of your normal daily thoughts?
2. What do verses 5-17 say about the change that should occur in the life of one who is completely surrendered to God?
3. What does it mean to “clothe yourselves” with the attributes of God’s chosen people (verse 12)? What are some practical things you can do to wear the life of Christ before the people you encounter every day?
4. How can your actions act as a confirmation of the truth of the message of Jesus Christ? How can your actions hinder the message of Jesus Christ?

### Read *1 Corinthians 9:24-27*.

1. Do you think of the Christian life as a long-distance race or a short dash? Why?
2. What are some of the ways that you train yourself spiritually? How do these things benefit your life with Christ?
3. How often do you think about the crown that will last forever? How can this practically affect the way you live your life?
4. Do you ever feel like you are running aimlessly in life? What can you do by yourself or with your small group to help you stay focused on God’s purpose for you and your life?
5. Is there anything you need to change in your life if you are going to win the eternal prize? What practical steps do you need to take today?

### Read *Luke 18:18-25* and *Acts 20:22-24*.

1. What are your thoughts about the rich ruler? Do you sympathize with him? Why or why not?
2. How difficult do you find it to give every part of your life to God? What are some of the things that may keep you from complete surrender?
3. Are you a person that likes to know everything that is happening in your life? How comfortable are you in trusting God, even when you are in a situation that is beyond your understanding or control?
4. How important is it that you finish strong in your spiritual life? What can you do to continue to gain spiritual discipline and strength each day?



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*All Bible references are from the New International Version unless otherwise stated.*

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