

You Must Kill Your Sin

Romans 8:12-13 ¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

❖ Why is this spiritual discipline so important?

❖ Illustration:

- **Consider:** If a group of men broke into your home to harm your family...
 - And they grabbed your spouse by the hair and drug him or her out into the living room
 - And they grabbed your children and were harming them
 - And they just kept striking your family over and over
 - **And you are watching your favorite television show**
 - Or maybe your eating your nightly ice-cream or checking your Facebook
 - Or maybe your reading your favorite author
 - **You know something is going on...**
 - But you do not even want to look up from your frivolous affairs...
 - You want to ignore the negativity...
- **And, you are still at peace with all of this... because you are enjoying your evening**
 - And they start taking your stuff
 - And they start destroying some of the most important things in your home
- **Then they focus their attention on you...**
 - Yet you still do nothing... you do not act...
 - And it will not be long before none of you make it through the night
- **Sadly... you have all the power in the world to get rid of your intruders...**
 - You could run to your closet and put on an iron man suit
 - And it would give you power beyond imagination
 - And you would have the strength to defeat a thousand intruders...
 - All it would take is a little effort on you part to put on the suit...
 - And you and your family would be very safe
- **What do you do?**
 - Do you sit idly by watching your family harmed
 - Or do you spring into action and take on a different demeanor...
 - Do you take on the demeanor of a fighter? Of a defender?
 - Do you identify the intruders... do you take aim at your enemies
 - Do you begin to take them out one by one until they can not stand any longer?
 - Do you use the power of the suit to protect you and your family?
 - **Or do you leave the suit in the closet?**
 - Or do you use the suit, but only for a little while...
 - You knock them down but let them stay in your home as a threat
 - Still walking around and full of life threatening capabilities
 - **Or would you finish the job...**
 - Would you debilitate them so they can no longer harm your family?
 - Would you stand over them with your foot on their throat until the law came to take them
 - Would you allow them any more room to operate?
- **I think I know the answer for all of you! You would fight!**
 - Yet... we have an invisible enemy that is not as invisible as he may seem

- Yet we are allowing him to wreak havoc on ourselves and our families
- And we are sitting idly by letting it all happen...
- **May this never be true...**
 - May we all rise up with the strength of the Spirit of God
 - And destroy the work of the the evil one in our lives....
 - Put on the armor of God... Put on your suit
 - Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
- **Satan is your Sworn Enemy... He is not your friend... He wants to destroy you**
 - 1 Peter 5:8 ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

❖ 4 Biblical Reasons to Wake Up to This Reality (write)

- When I was in college... I had some girls write a bunch of Bible verses for me...
 - Cause girls can write so much better than guys usually
 - And we put them on my wall in my dorm
 - And one of them I put up above my bed... and it said
 - Ephesians 5:14 Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”
 - ◆ So... four reasons to wake up

❖ 1) There is Sin in You (write)

- “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own” (Philippians 3:12).
- “I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members” (Romans 7:23).
- And Jesus taught us to pray daily, “Forgive us our debts” (Matthew 6:12).
- **We Have sin living and breeding inside of us...**
 - Do not be ignorant or fooled about this

❖ 2) Sin Will Kill You (There is a danger associated with unmortified sin) (write)

- **Make no mistake... if you are not killing sin... then it is killing you...**
 - It is a slow death that you can not see, but it is happening
- **Romans 8:13 is teaching us this very thing... which we will get into...**
 - ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die
 - **This is speaking of eternal death...**
 - Living in unrepentant sin will bring about your death...
 - This is exactly what Paul is saying here...
 - **He is warning this church that even though they think they are saved and safe...**
 - ◆ There is a potential for sin to bring about their eternal damnation
 - ◆ And it doesn't matter how hard they believed “once saved always saved”
 - Paul is issuing a warning... a very real warning...
 - **We will dig into all of this as we go along...**

❖ 3) Your Spiritual Life's Energy Depends on Your Killing of Sin (write)

- **Want to be a man or woman or a young person of God...**
 - Want to be God pleasing?
 - You must be killing your sin.
- **Ever wonder why you struggle with Spiritual Energy or Unction?**

- Ever wonder why you have very little desire for godly things?
- For ministry?
- To reach people for God?
- **Ever wonder why your prayer life is so life--less?**
 - Why your Bible reading time is so fruitless?
 - Why there is no life in your praises... praise-less
- **It is likely because your spiritual energy has been sucked dry...**
 - Due to indwelling sin

❖ 4) We Are At War (write)

- **Ephesians 6:12¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.**
- **We must take on a war time mentality...**
 - Why? Because we are not at peace... we are at war...
 - Our enemy is at war... He is scheming about our demise
 - He is planning His attack...
 - We are sitting idly by in our lounge chairs
- **There are Spiritual powers at work all around us...**
 - And we must be aware of this so we can battle back

❖ Exposition of Romans 8:12-13 (Main focus on verse 13)

❖ We really need to hash this out... and you need to dig in here

- **Here in these verses is the warning... that you could die**
- **Then, there is a prescription for how you gain life**
 - So... we really need to dig in and gain understanding...
 - Because you could easily go astray here into confusion...
 - You must consider the whole Bible and the context of this verse...
- **So... the warning is real and important...**
 - And the way for life is all important to your soul...

❖ 1) We Owe Our Flesh Nothing (write this down)

- ¹²**So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.**
- **Addressing: Brothers...**
- **We are debtors not to the flesh...**
 - So... what is He saying here...
 - **What does he mean by flesh?**
 - ◆ I believe it is clear he is speaking of our sinful nature...
 - ◆ Our wrong affections and desires...
 - ◆ That arise from a heart that is far from God
 - ◆ That uses our body members to dishonor God...
 - **What does it mean to be a debtor to the flesh?**
 - For one... it means we would owe our flesh something...
 - And Secondly... He makes this point in the text...
 - ◆ To live in accord with our sinful desires... AKA "The flesh"
- **So... Paul is saying... we do not owe our sinful desires anything when they rise up...**
 - We do not have to give in to them...

- They offer us nothing but death...
- And we **do not belong to them any longer**... they do not rule us anymore
- **It's like owing the mob a couple million dollars...**
 - And you have to do all sorts of bad things for them...
 - Hurting people or stealing for them or covering up their crimes...
 - And one day a caring friend pays off your debt to them...
 - **And He frees you from their service...**
 - They may come calling again... they may ask for you to continue in your old lifestyle
 - But... you owe them nothing... you are free from them...
- **This is what Christ has done for you (Paul says this 10 verses earlier)**
 - **Romans 8:2 ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.**

❖ 2) Warning: Living According to the Flesh Brings Death

- **¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die**
- **How do You Live?**
 - Everyone has a lifestyle... what is your lifestyle like?
 - There are all sorts... Some live lifestyles marked with violence
 - Others with greed or laziness
 - Some peoples lifestyles are marked with a focus on entertainment
 - We have some people that live their life for their job...
 - So... if you notice... these are all lives lived according to the flesh
 - **A person could also live their life to God...**
- **I think this is a valid question to ask...**
 - Look at your life... what does it look like...
 - **Is it marked with the things of God...** or is it marked with things of the flesh
 - Marked with sexual lusts, desiring what others have, lack of contentment, unhappiness, overeating or overdrinking, lack of patience, outbursts of anger, talking negative of others, focus on self and personal entertainment
- **Paul is forcing the question on you...**
 - If you live according to the flesh...
 - **Then... here is the danger... You Will Die**
- **YOU WILL DIE!**
 - **What does he mean by "You Will Die"**
 - **1) Obviously we can count out the death that comes to all men...**
 - He is not here speaking of our earthly bodies dying
 - Because this is **obvious**... all men will die...
 - The author of Hebrews rightly says **"it is appointed unto man to die once and then the judgment"**
 - **2) He must be speaking of eternal death**
 - Along the same lines as what he has said previously....
 - **Romans 6:23 "the wages of sin is death"**
 - **Eternal Damnation is in mind here....**
- **So what do we have here? Well... It is a warning to the church... to individuals**
 - If your life is in accord with the flesh... then your future is eternal death...
 - I do not want to protect one person in this room from this truth...
 - If this scares you, then I am not apologetic
 - We should live in the fear of God and the awe of His truth...

- **Objection: Why is He saying this if we are saved by faith and not our works or fighting sin?**
 - Aren't we taught that God will keep those who are His?
 - That none will escape His hand...?
 - Won't He remind us of this at the end of this chapter?
 - Romans 8:30 ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
 - Aren't we taught that those who believe will be saved...
- **Answer: Yes and Yes and Yes...**
 - But warnings are real... and in part the Word of God is one way in which God...
 - Brings about our perseverance and glorification...
 - God has a means to bring us safely into His kingdom
 - And He will indeed accomplish this work...
 - But it will be by the means He has ordained...
- **So... Why use this language?... Because it is needed... !**
 - These guys needed to be able to evaluate their spiritual pulse...
 - Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if in fact** the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
 - If in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you...
 - ◆ Notice the **conditional**...
 - ◆ Paul assumes He is speaking to Christians...
 - But He does **not know** their heart
 - **Also consider Romans 12:**
 - Romans 1:22 Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.
 - ◆ There is a real warning here...
 - ◆ We could continue... there are numerous verses that point to this warning...
- **He who has an ear hear what the Spirit says... (Your Responsibility to Listen!)**
 - If you are living in accord to your flesh... You will certainly die...
 - This is not a maybe... this is a resounding and concrete certainty
- **Don't Forget Your Good Theology...**
 - **Perfection is not in mind...**
 - There could be a **snap shot** in the life of the believer in which it would seem fleshly...
 - There are **times** when true believers will live in accord with the flesh...
 - **But, what is in mind here...** Is that this is the **lifestyle** of the person
 - This is the general direction of their life...
 - **Two things could happen to a person...**
 - An unbeliever can drift into a time of self reformation and worldly good works
 - A Believer can drift into sin
 - ◆ Neither is a permanent state of being...
- **So.. Now Paul is going to show his readers the mark of the true believer...**
 - The true believer **will be fighting** his sin...
 - Notice this... He will be at war with his sin...
 - *Not that he will not* have sin... because... what would there be to kill?

❖ Invitation