

## You Must Kill Your Sin

Romans 8:12-13 <sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> 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.

### ❖ Illustration: Invaders and Iron Man Suit

- 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 <sup>8</sup> 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

#### ❖ 1) There is Sin in You

- “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).

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

- 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...
  - <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die
  - This is speaking of eternal death...

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

- Want to be a man or woman or a young person of God...
  - Want to be God pleasing?... You must be killing your sin.

#### ❖ 4) We Are At War

- Ephesians 6:12 <sup>12</sup> 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...

#### ❖ 1) We Owe Our Flesh Nothing (Exposition of Romans 8:12-13)

- <sup>12</sup> 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...**
- This is what Christ has done for you (Paul says this 10 verses earlier)
  - Romans 8:2 <sup>2</sup> 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

- <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die
- How do You Live? I think this is a valid question to ask...
- 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”

- **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....
- **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
- **Don't Forget Your Good Theology...**
  - **Perfection is not in mind...**

### ❖ 3) If Your Killing Your Sin You Will Live

- **but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**
- (We have to ask a lot of questions about this verse)
- **A) There is a Condition: But If: The Means to Eternal Life**
  - **It is a conditional means...** like ... if you have this surgery... you will save your life
    - **The surgery is the way in which your life is saved... it is the means of your saving**
    - **Do you understand that? The means... God does the saving**
      - ◆ When the person responds in faith to the gospel
      - ◆ But then... God has prescribed a means by which we are saved...
      - ◆ What is in mind here is our sanctification and our growth
      - ◆ A Christian is not just saved and that is that
        - He is made right with God initially
        - And He is progressively made holy over time
        - And He is finally brought blameless into the kingdom of God
          - And all of it is dependent on the justifying, sanctifying and glorifying work of Jesus
  - **Notice here...** Paul is prescribing a way in which we will have life...
    - **If you do kill the deed of the body (flesh)**
  - And He puts it as a conditional...
    - If you do such and such you will live...
    - So we could assume... if we do not do such and such we will not live but die... eternal death
  - **But... you must ask... does this mean that my eternal life is dependent upon my work**
    - *No... but... if your work is not present... then you should not trust you have eternal life*
- **What we have here is: A Means of Assurance:**
  - **Eternal life is dependent on the promise of God received by Faith...**
    - The man who has received Christ by Faith...
      - ◆ This man will indeed fight and be killing His Sin...
  - **Although God grants salvation freely apart from Works...**
    - He does ordain certain works for the fruition of salvation...
  - **Let me summarize quickly:**
    - **God's Work in you of salvation and placing the Spirit within you...**
      - ◆ Assures that you will fight your sin...
      - ◆ This fighting of sin will lead to life for you
    - **If you do not fight and kill your sin... By the Spirit of God...**
      - ◆ We are not talking about human reforming here...

◆ Then you will die... and you will die because there is no Spirit within you

▪ **This verse becomes a matter of assurance...**

- A way to look into your life and into your soul and examine yourself...
- Am I about the work of killing my sin?

▪ **This is Proven again by who He is Addressing:**

- If You:
- Who is You?

◆ **Well... "you" is in regards to those he is speaking of in:**

- "there is no condemnation" (v. 1);
- you that are "not in the flesh, but in the Spirit" (v. 9);
- who are "quickened by the Spirit of Christ" (vv. 10-11);

▪ **Do you see it? This is a work of the redeemed person...**

- The redeemed person will do this work
- Just like the sick person would take his medicine and be healed

▪ **John Owens "The intention, then, of this proposition as conditional is that *there is a certain infallible connection and coherence between true mortification and eternal life: if you use this means, you shall obtain that end; if you do mortify, you shall live.*"**

- Please do not take this lightly... do not neglect this work
- Do not think that your work is done because you believed
- It has only begun
- Jesus himself taught us this... He taught us that it is a daily think...

◆ **Luke 9:23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."**

◆ Are you taking up your cross? Because ... "IF you would come after Jesus... You must do so"

➤ **B) What are the deeds of the body he is referring to?**

- **but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**
- You need to know what you need to kill before you kill it right?

▪ **Same as in verse 12 where he says "flesh"**

- He is speaking of the "old man" ... who we used to be...
- ◆ Our old nature

▪ **Deeds of the body are in reference to the outward sinful workings of the flesh**

- But He is not only referring here to the outward workings...
- He is being more specific...
- You have to follow the lines of reasoning...

▪ **Indwelling Sin is what He is actually speaking about**

- It is not just the outward actings of sin
- It is the source of sin in the human heart
- This is why Jesus said lust in the heart is the same thing as adultery
- This is why he says anger is like murder
- This is why He says we should not even give if we have an issue with a brother

▪ **The deeds of the body... start in the heart**

➤ **C) How are We Doing This? By the Spirit**

- **but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

▪ **Illustration: Anyone know what a catalyst is?**

- It is a chemistry term...

- It is a substance that modifies or increases the rate of a reaction
  - **Like: if you fill a room with hydrogen and oxygen... very little will happen...**
    - ◆ But if you light a flame... there begins to be a reaction that brings the two elements together to make water... (The martian)
      - But this is a very dangerous reaction and cause a huge explosion (KIDS!)
  - **Like: catalytic converters in vehicles... (some of us know a little about them)**
    - ◆ I have a long crazy story of trying to change one out
    - ◆ But... they have platinum in them... so that the carbon monoxide created by the engine
      - Will pass over the platinum and cause it to turn into carbon dioxide
      - Which is something that plants breath
  - **The Spirit of God is an active catalyst in the sin killing life of the believer**
    - ◆ There is no killing sin without the Spirit
  - **There are two avenues to the killing of sin in our life: Simply put**
    - **1) First and foremost it is By the Spirit**
      - ◆ Paul says so right in the text... you can see it ☺
    - **2) Secondly it is by your effort**
      - ◆ **but if... you put to death...**
        - this is what you are called to do... this is what this whole sermon is about
        - putting to death indwelling sin
        - And this word in the greek is an active verb
        - Meaning that you are the subject... it is implied right?
          - And the subject is doing the action... (of putting to death sin)
          - But... the subject has a way to act... and there is a phrase that identifies how
      - ◆ **By the Spirit...** is a prepositional phrase
        - **And it is a phrase that helps you see how you go about “putting to death**
          - And these two avenues work in conjunction with one another
          - But make no mistake ... they are both active
          - One is just preeminent over the other
          - The Spirit does the enabling and the empowering
          - **John Owen said, “He only is sufficient for this work; all ways and means without him are as a thing of naught; and he is the great efficient of it—he works in us as he pleases.**
- **Recap: First it must be done by the Spirit**
  - This is what Paul points to here in the text
  - This is the **role of the Holy Spirit**
    - ◆ God tells us in Ezekiel that He will **put his spirit in us**
      - And he will **remove our heart of stone** and replace it with a heart of flesh
    - ◆ In acts 2 the promised Spirit came upon believers and **empowered** them
    - ◆ Jesus taught is in John 15 that we must **be joined to Him**-the vine... if we are to do anything
    - ◆ The indwelling Spirit **creates fruit** in our lives that run contrary to the flesh
    - ◆ The Spirit **reminds** us of what Christ has done for us and who He is
    - ◆ The Spirit brings **conviction** and **comfort** upon our soul
    - ◆ The Spirit of God loves the **things of God** and is uncomfortable with sin in us
- **Second: What about our active responsibility to be about this work?**
  - It is not to be neglected or disregarded
  - We must still be obedient... we are not robots or puppets
  - The Spirit is at work in us for sure... but we must act
    - ◆ The Spirit works in us, but he does not work without us

- **We must be at work daily fighting sin in our life**
  - ◆ We will look at some practical means later
  - ◆ But rest assured... God will not do this without your efforts
    - You can not sit back and be lazy
    - You must make this your daily habit
- **Consider John Murray's statement in this regards:**
  - God's working in us (in sanctification) is not suspended because we work, nor our working suspended because God works. Neither is the relation strictly one of co-operation as if God did His part and we did ours, so the conjunction or subordination of both produced the required result. God works in us, and we also work. But the relation is that because God works, we work.
    - ◆ See the synergy
      -
- **There are also some great errors in regards to sin killing:**
  - **1) Passivity:** We think we can sit back and wait for God to just do it while we do not act
  - **2) Will power and Self Improvement:** We think we can just work hard enough and practice enough self discipline. We think we can just punish ourselves enough.
    - ◆ So men take vows and do penance as the see it helps
  - **3) Self Guilt** – heaping upon people guilt with no mind on the mercy of Jesus
    - ◆ These are those that would interpret Jesus' command to pluck out an eye or cut off a limb literally
      - ◆ **Not realizing that losing a body part does nothing to the problem of the heart**
        - It does not pluck out the real problem of indwelling sin
        - That it dwells deep within the imaginations of the heart
  - Sin killing by self invention is the mother of false religion
  - The Spirit of God is the catalyst for your work
- **D) You Must Kill Indwelling Sin**
  - but if by the Spirit you **put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**
  - **Put to Death...**
    - This word means... to kill.. to stop an activity with lethal determination
      - ◆ To put it to death... some versions say "mortify"
  - **Now... we must caution here...**
    - This is a present verb... and I believe it to be an ongoing activity
      - ◆ This work is to be carried out over our lifetime
  - **Also, there is a metaphor invoved here...** and I think the context plus the rest of the Bible show this
    - Now... lets look at what it is not... so we can look at what it is
  - **What it is Not:**
  - **1) You never completely get rid of it**
    - **How do we know this?**
      - ◆ Paul reminds us in Philippians that he has not yet attained perfection
        - He seems to be making the case that perfection is what we strive for
        - But it is not attained until we pass from this life to the next
    - **Paul is using a metaphor here... He is ascribing man like qualities t indwelling sin**
      - ◆ So he speaks of its destruction as you would speak of a man's destruction
      - ◆ Put to death the deeds of the body... or flesh... or indwelling sin
    - **John Owen defines this putting to death as:**
      - ◆ "is to take away the principle of all his strength, vigor, and power so that he cannot act or exert or put forth any proper actings of his own"

- ◆ in an almost literal sense... Put it to death
- ◆ **Choke the life out of it**
  - If it has a pulse, it is faint...
  - And we are keeping our eye on it as to not let it up
  - We continue to keep our foot on its neck
- **2) It is not just hiding your Sin**
  - Don't think that you can hide your sinfulness ... and this makes it inactive
- **3) It is not just just Diverting Your Sin**
  - Just because a person may move on from lusts.... Does not mean he has moved on
    - ◆ His sin may now just look different
  - **You can not outgrow your sin**
    - ◆ Certain sins are more prevalent in youth than in older age
    - ◆ But if they are never put to death...
    - ◆ They will rise up in different forms
    - ◆ Yet they still come from the same root
  - **The roots of sin grow up into all sorts of branches..**
    - ◆ You can not just cut off the branch
    - ◆ You must cut off the root
- **4) It is not just occasional Victories**
  - **Consider your anger (this can be applied to all sin)...**
    - ◆ Have you ever just erupted in anger
    - ◆ **I mean, it was bad and embarrassing... maybe you harmed another person**
      - Maybe it was physical, or emotional or mental
      - Your anger just let loos
    - ◆ **Then... Then you recognized it for the sin it is...**
      - It has come to light,., and there you see it in all of its natural ugliness
    - ◆ **What do you do... maybe you run to God and confess your sin**
      - Maybe you ask others to forgive you
      - Maybe you spend a day or a week in prayer about it
      - And the anger subsides... it looks like you have weakened it... maybe destroyed it
      - The sin of anger will not have its way with you any longer...
    - ◆ **But sin is like a possum...**
      - Ever seen a possum...
        - They fake like they are dead... they really do this
        - Like some of you men in here fake to be listening to your wife when she talks
      - What happened when the danger leaves
        - They get back up and walk off
    - ◆ **Sin does this... an occasional victory over sin does not destroy it**
      - It is always there... always plotting... waiting for its next opportunity
      - To overrun the camp and cause destruction
- **Putting sin to death is:**
- **1) Continual Weakening of Sin**
  - This is called "crucifying the flesh with the lusts thereof (Gal 5:24)
  - 2 Corinthians 4:16 " So we do not lose heart, though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
  - **Jesus has dealt a death blow to sin and death**
    - ◆ We must continually strike it and weaken it in our lives...
  - **Identify your sins**

- ◆ And begin to fight to weaken them
  - ◆ Do not ignore them and think they will go away one day
- **2) Continually Fighting Against Sin**
  - **Remember our illustration about the intruders?**
    - ◆ Do you stop when you are tired?
    - ◆ Or do you continue until there is absolutely no danger to your family...
  - **Sin killing must be continual...**
    - ◆ Do not wake up at any point and forget your anger
    - ◆ Do not forget your lack of generosity is actually at its root Greed
  - **Continually Study your sins**
    - ◆ Learn of its strengths and weaknesses
    - ◆ Remember when it has had its greatest success over you
    - ◆ Remember when it has snuck up on you when you thought it was gone
  - **Paul instructs us in**
    - ◆ **Colossians 3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you**
  - **Paul tells us how he fights**
    - ◆ **1 Corinthians 9:26-27 I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control**
- **3) Continual Success**
  - This is not the occasional victory
  - **This is what Paul speaks of when he says:**
    - ◆ **2 Corinthians 10:5 and take every thought captive to obey Christ**
  - **Sin raises its ugly head**
    - ◆ And we see it... the temptation is there
    - ◆ But we rarely lose... we recognize it and strike it down
    - ◆ We use God's Word against it and strike another fatal blow
    - ◆ **We substitute our indwelling sin with the gifts and graces of the Spirit**
      - Our anger is turned to patience
      - Our greed becomes generosity
  - **In the end... the sins is so struck down and weakened**
    - ◆ That the Christian is able to live in peace against it
    - ◆ Having done the work and continuing to clean the cobwebs
- **Consider the ends result of sin Killing**
  - **John Owen: The end result of conquering sexual lust is not that we turn out head when presented with the opportunity, or that we do not lust when we see the person as an object of lust. Rather it is when we see the person, not as an object, but rather in the power of the Spirit we have a presence of godly appreciation for her.**
  - **You can't get rid of temptation... you cant cover your eyes everywhere you go**
    - ◆ You can make wise decisions... but you can hide out in a cave all of your life
    - ◆ We must function in the world
    - ◆ We must function in a world of sin
    - ◆ We must stand strong in the midst of the battle field
- **The stakes are High but the Reward is Great**

➤ **E) Eternal Life is your Reward**

- **But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live**
- You will live eternally... your salvation will be assured

- **And in some part I think he means.... Your spiritual life on this earth:**
  - Will be filled with Lif
- **That is the Promise: You WILL LIVE!**

➤ **Invitation:**

- Much more next week...
- The results of neglecting this discipline
- Why you must always be at this work
- Practical ways to fight