

Kill Your Sin 3

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.

❖ 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 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

❖ 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...
 - ¹³ 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 ¹² 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)

- 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...**
- 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? 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:** This is the Means to Eternal Life
 - **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:**
 - **This verse becomes a matter of assurance...**
 - A way to look into your life and into your soul and examine yourself...
 - **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
 - 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
 - **Indwelling Sin is what He is actually speaking about**
 - **And... 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.**
 - **There are two avenues to the killing of sin in our life: Simply put**
 - **1) First and foremost it is By the Spirit**
 - **2) Secondly it is by your effort**
 - ◆ **but if... you put to death...**
 - ◆ **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
- **We must be at work daily fighting sin in our life**
 - ◆ But rest assured... God will not do this without your efforts
 - You can not sit back and be lazy
- **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.

➤ 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 emphasize this...**
 - This is a **present** verb... and I believe it to be an ongoing activity
 - ◆ This work is to be carried out over our lifetime
- **You never completely get rid of it**
- **Putting sin to death is:**
 - **1) Continual Weakening of Sin**
 - **2) Continually Fighting Against Sin**
 - ◆ **Colossians 3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you**
 - **3) Continual Success**
 - ◆ **This is what Paul speaks of when he says:**
 - **2 Corinthians 10:5 and take every thought captive to obey Christ**
 - ◆ **In the end... the sins is so struck down and weakened**
 - That the Christian is able to live in peace against it
- **Consider the ends result of sin Killing**
 - ◆ **John Owen: The end result of conquering sexual lust is not that we turn our 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.**

➤ 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 Life
- **That is the Promise: You WILL LIVE!**

❖ How Do We "Fight our Sins? Let's look at 5 Ways

- **Now remember... You Can Not Be Passive... You must have a plan...**
 - And you must stick to it...
 - Our fight against sin reminds me of this time I killed a rattlesnake
- **Illustration: Have you ever killed anything?**

- There was this one time... Me and my buddy Jarrett killed a huge rattle snake...
 - I got a stick... and I beat that sucker in the head over and over till it wasn't moving...
 - Snakes give me the creeps a bit... and you can not be too carefull with them...
- Why? Because they can kill u... right?
- **Upon killing it... we decided we would show off our trophy...**
 - So we threw it up on the tractor with us...
 - Right behind my seat is where I placed that snake...
 - U know what happened while I was driving?
 - **IT STARTED RATTLING AGAIN!!!!**
 - Scared us to death...
 - In our mind we realized quickly... even though we thought it was dead...
 - It was still dangerous... We quickly fled!!!!
- **Fighting Sin takes tenacity... it takes a knowledge of your enemy... it requires relentlessness**
- **Ed Welch said in regards to self control... and I think we can apply this directly to fighting sin:**
 - *“there is a mean streak to authentic self-control. . . Self-control is not for the timid. When we want to grow in it, not only do we nurture an exuberance for Jesus Christ, we also demand of ourselves a hatred for sin. . . . The only possible attitude toward out-of-control desire is a declaration of all-out war. . . . There is something about war that sharpens the senses . . . You hear a twig snap or the rustling of leaves and you are in attack mode. Someone coughs and you are ready to pull the trigger. Even after days of little of no sleep, war keeps us vigilant.*

❖ 1) Remember it is Our Duty

- **It is our duty to be “perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor. 7:1);**
 - to be “growing in grace” every day (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18);
 - to be “renewing our inward man day by day” (2 Cor. 4:16).
- **This is a calling of God people...**
 - We were made in His **image**... and we must **display** the character of God to creation
- **This is the responsibility of the person who calls himself a Christian...**
 - Hear me on this:
 - Just like a mother is responsible to care for her children
 - Just like father is responsible to provide for and protect his family...
 - ◆ The Christian be about fighting their sin

❖ 2) Identify Our Indwelling Sin

- **This was your homework...**
 - How do you fight it, if you do not identify it...
 - Get to know yourself... get to know your heart...
- **Your First Stop is God:**
 - Begin to seek God in His Word and in prayer over this...
 - **God searched the heart of David... David says:**
 - Psalm139:1-4 O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
 - Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me,
- **Also... Maybe you should ask some people that know you best**
 - But do not get offended... be humbled...

❖ 3) Set Your Mind on the Things of the Spirit

- Romans 8:5-7 For those who live according to the flesh **set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who live according to the Spirit **set their minds on the things of the Spirit**.⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
- Colossians 3:1-2 If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek** the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² **Set your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
- **So... what are the things of the Spirit?**
 - Let's draw a line from "things of the Spirit" to a clearly defined answer
 - **So... you can draw a line from Romans 8**
 - Where Paul is teaching that a person must live **according to the spirit...**
 - ◆ And if he is... then he is setting his mind on the **"things of the spirit"**
 - Here he says the person must set his mind on the spirit
 - **Now... this isn't hard to do... you just take that phrase and see where else it is use in the Bible...**
 - And we get the answer in 1 Corinthians
 - So we can draw the line from Romans 8 to 1 Corinthians 2
 - ◆ Which gives us our next step in **"Fighting our Sin"**

❖ 4) Set Your Mind on the Words of God

- 1 Corinthians 2:12-15¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the **things freely given us by God**.¹³ And we **impart this in words** not taught by human wisdom but taught **by the Spirit**, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.¹⁴ The natural person does not accept **the things of the Spirit of God**, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.
 - Look carefully in this verse and see the connection...
 - **In romans 8 we see that if we want to live... And our living is contingent on our fighting of sin**
 - Then we must set our mind on the **"things of the spirit"**
 - **Here in 1 Corinthians 2:14... Paul says... same language... same phrase...**
 - **He says the natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God...**
 - ◆ Same phrase...
 - And... what are the things of the Spirit here in 1 Corinthians?
 - **Paul answered that when he said in vs 13... that he imparts this in words taught by the spirit**
 - So.... Then He uses **things of the Spirit** as a synonym for **words taught by the Spirit...**
- **The Answer... The things of the Spirit are the Words of God...**
 - This is all so simple people...
 - It may have taken us some digging to get there... but it is really simple...
- **We must set our mind on the Words of God...**
 - **Back to Colossians 3...**
 - Paul has been encouraging this church to set their minds on things above where Christ is
 - And He tells them to **put off earthly things...**
 - ◆ Sounds like **fighting** sin to me...
 - **Then He brings it all together in 3:16... and He gives us the key...**
 - Colossians 3:16¹⁶ **Let the word of Christ dwell** in you **richly**, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
 - **See what He is saying???**
 - ◆ Put God's word in you... let it **dwell** in you richly... that is abundantly and overflowing...

◆ *Paul is like... read it, meditate on it, store it, teach it, learn it, admonish others with it, sing it in psalms, sing it in hymns, sing it in spiritual songs...*

➤ And be thankful for it...

➤ Get it in as much as you can...

• **Illustrate this for you:**

◆ When I did the whole 30... no sugar, dairy, bread

➤ On day 31... I went to chilis to get a skillet cookie with ice cream on it...

➤ I was getting all that yummy stuff in me... I was scarfing it down

➤ **The Bible is meant to be taken in like we take in our food and drink...**

▪ **Consider Jesus Words about Himself in the book of John...**

• And remember John refers to Jesus... as what?... the Word

• John 6:35 "Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

• John 6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.

▪ **Job.. a man highly esteemed of God... put his delight in God's Word**

• Job 23:12 I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.

▪ **The Psalmist says of God's Word**

• Psalm 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

➤ **God's Word is our one weapon in our fight against sin... The Sword of the Spirit**

▪ Ephesians 6:17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

➤ **If you want to fight your sin... and be victorious in your fight...**

▪ You must set your mind on the Word of God... Use the Word as a weapon against your sin...

▪ **Memorize it... repeat it... dwell on it... live by it.. rejoice in it...**

• Be like Jesus... when He went into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days...

• He was tempted by Satan... Jesus used the Word of God against all of his temptations...

• Satan fled from Jesus...

◆ James 4:7 Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

❖ **5) Have Faith in What You Hear and Read**

➤ **Here We Are... The Rubber meets the road...**

▪ 1) You have recognized your responsibility to fight sin

▪ 2) You have identified your sin

▪ 3) You have seen your need to set your mind on the things of the Spirit

▪ 4) You have seen that the things of the Spirit are the Words of God...

• So... you have been setting your heart and mind on the words of God...

• Now what?

➤ **You must believe... You must trust what God is saying to you....**

▪ It doesn't do a lot of good to read God's word to fight your sin...

• And then **not believe...** and not trust what you read

➤ **Example: What would you think of a doctor who went through years of study**

▪ To perform heart surgeries... and he studied every book and new technique...

• He studied the most successful doctors and techniques

▪ Yet when it came time to do the work on the heart...

▪ **He couldn't do it because He simply did not believe in what He was doing...**

- He didn't believe what he had studied would benefit the heart
- He didn't believe it could save the life of the person
- **After all those hours of devoting himself to the study of heart surgery...**
 - And he was unwilling to apply it to someone's heart
 - He simply didn't trust what he had studied...
- **We would find that as ludicrous wouldn't we?**
 - All those other doctors and teachers and experience...
 - And he put not trust in them...
- **We must believe God's Word if we want to win the battle against indwelling sin**
 - We must believe two things:
 - 1) That it is **from** God Himself...
 - ◆ The scriptures say of themselves that they are "god breathed"
 - 2) The Words are **true** and **useful**
- **First things first... we have to hear the Word:**
 - **Romans 10:17** ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- **Scriptures teach us we must hear with faith...**
 - **Galatians 3:5** ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by **hearing with faith**
 - God works in us not when we **just** hear the Word...
 - Rather... when we **hear** with **Faith**...
- **Do you believe that God is the greater treasure...?**
 - The scriptures teach us against worshipping idols...
 - And isn't this the foundation of all our sin?
 - Idol worship...? We love what God has created more than God...
- **But... when you hear the Word... do you believe that God is greater than His gifts?**
 - Do you think He is greater than the sexual immorality you run toward?
 - Greater than the things you gain from your greed?
 - Is He greater than money? Is He greater than the people you love?
 - Is He greater than holding on to your pride when you should be humble?
 - Is He greater than your time?
- **What do you read from the Bible and say.... YES I BELIEVE THAT!**
- **And when satan comes against you...**
 - You don't just half heartedly quote a verse... You believe it in your inner being...
 - And you know God and your walk with Him are a greater treasure than the mirage of sin
- **The Man Who Believes and Does is a man on Solid ground:**
 - **Matt 7:24** ²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

❖ A) Results of Neglecting this Discipline:

- **Grace is weakened in the life of the believer**
 - 1 Lusts grow significantly... 2The makeup of your heart grows worse and worse
 - 3 The person is left as a shell of what God has for them
- **4 They experience life without joy...**
 - 5 They exist with little to no peace... 6 They look forward with little to no hope
 - 7 Their faith in God is weakened significantly
- **8 Their ability to mirror the image of God toward mankind fades significantly**
- **Where sin is victorious in a person... it has certain affects on the person...**
 - **Psalm 31:10** my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.

- Psalm 51:8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- Psalm 38:3-5 My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness, ⁶ I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. ⁷ For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. ⁸ I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.
- Psalm 40:12 my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.
- Hebrews 3:13 ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

❖ Finally... let me give us some good reasons from the great Puritan John Owen as to why...

❖ B) You Must Always Be About Killing Your Sin

➤ If your not about it... it will always be winning... We Must Be in Constant Warfare

➤ **1) Indwelling Sin Always Abides, Therefore It Must Always Be Mortified**

- We are not yet perfect remember... Phil 3.12
- 2 Cor 4:16... we need renewal inwardly every day.
- We have darkness remaining in us... 2 Peter 3:18
- There is that battle b/w flesh and Spirit from Ga 5
- We have a “**body of death**” (Rom. 7:24),

➤ **2) Indwelling Sin Not Only Abides, But Is Still Acting**

- *John Owen said: “When sin lets us alone we may let sin alone; but as sin is never less quiet than when it seems to be most quiet, and its waters are for the most part deep when they are still, so ought our contrivances against it to be vigorous at all times and in all conditions, even where there is least suspicion.*
- *“the law of the members is still rebelling against the law of the mind” (Rom. 7:23);*
- *“the spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy” (James 4:5)*
- *lust is still tempting and conceiving sin (James 1:14);*
- *“the sin that so easily besets us” (Heb. 12:1);*
- *John Owen goes on to say: “If sin be subtle, watchful, strong, and always at work in the business of killing our souls, and we be slothful, negligent, foolish, in proceeding to the ruin thereof, can we expect a comfortable event? There is not a day but sin foils or is foiled, prevails or is prevailed on; and it will be so while we live in this world. “*

➤ **3) Indwelling Sin Is Not Only Active, But Will Produce Soul-Destroying Sins If Not Mortified**

- **Sin want to go as far as it can?**
 - Every time it rises up to tempt... it wants to go as far as it can with that sin
 - Every unclean thought would be adultery or worse
 - ◆ Sin wants to grow... it is never satisfied
 - Every thought to covet would lead to oppression and idolatry
 - Every hatred would lead to murder
 - Every unbelief would lead to outright rejection of God and His ways
- **Sin’s ultimate goal is the ruin of man through the hardening of their heart to God’s Word**
- **Look at how it treated King David... Samson... Lot... even Abraham and Noah**
 - It seeks to destroy!

❖ Invitation

➤ “axe is to be laid to the root of the tree” [Matt. 3:10]