

THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER *Part 2*

We've been speaking to you about how "The Battle Is NOT Over." Many assume the battle is over because of what Jesus has done for us through the cross. However, what Jesus did for us on the cross is only PART of the battle!

1 Peter 3:18

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Christ suffered and died FOR SINS. Meaning, He paid the PENALTY for our sins. But, His death did more than pay the penalty for sins. It also FREED us from sin.

Romans 6:9–10

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

To say that Jesus "died UNTO SIN" means that the relationship (the dominion) death once had over Him is now over! Also, since Jesus died FOR US, sin's dominion over us has also ended!

Romans 6:11

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul does *not* say, "MAKE yourselves dead unto sin." He says, "RECKON yourselves dead unto sin." This means *act like you are dead* to sin's dominion over you!

But, while you may be free from sin's dominion, this doesn't mean you're free from its power! To put it another way, although sin has lost its *right to reign*, this doesn't mean it will stop *trying to reign*!

Romans 6:12

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

This is why I'm saying that WE'RE STILL IN A FIGHT (battle). The battle isn't for victory. The battle is against SIN, particularly against the *flesh*.

When we say the “flesh” understand what we mean. When we say the flesh we’re talking about that residue of sin still remaining in us even after salvation. Moreover, this sin will try to regain or maintain control over your body!

Romans 7:22–23

22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

The thing that is ‘warring’ in our members is our fleshly lusts!

1 Peter 2:11

11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Again, our “fleshly lusts” (carnal desires, body memories, sensations, appetites) are WARRING and trying desperately to regain dominion or control.

It’s similar to what Israel experienced after they entered the Promised Land. After Joshua brought Israel into Canaan, the inhabitants that were left in the land contended against them to regain control of the land. Thus, there was still a battle to be fought. Unfortunately, Israel chose to live alongside their enemies rather than utterly destroy them off the land.

Judges 1:28

28 And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out.

We do the SAME thing. Instead of putting to death our sin (anger, rejection, unforgiveness, pride, anxiety) we *put them to tribute* or try to make our sin work for us. For example...

- We keep **sexual lust** because it drives excitement with our spouse
- We keep **anxiety** because it drives us to be more vigilant/careful
- We keep **feelings of rejection** because it drives us to be the ultimate fixer or caretaker of other people’s problems. (This way we become indispensable and people are less likely to leave us.)
- We keep **anger** because it drives activism and social justice
- We keep our **lust for riches** because it drives ambition/achievement

But while our lusts may be helping to “power” our life, if we do not crucify them, they will eventually become a source of bondage and even death!

1 Timothy 6:9

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Thus, COPING and learning to live with our sins is *not* a strategy. The only effective strategy against the flesh is to CRUCIFY it!

Romans 8:12–13

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. ¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Notice, if we live after (or live with) the flesh, we will die. BUT, if we mortify/crucify the flesh, we will live. How do we crucify the flesh?

Matthew 16:24

²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

We crucify the flesh by DENYING it. Moreover, if we deny our flesh from going in the direction it wants to go, we will live. However, if we allow our flesh to go in the direction it wants to go, it might power our life for awhile, we will die. Incidentally, a battery works the same way.

A battery is a device (container) that converts chemical energy to electrical energy. Now, batteries create a path (circuit) for the chemicals inside to flow in a direction they naturally want to take. This natural path is what creates electrical current. However, if a battery continues to travel in this natural path it will die (discharge). On the other hand, if you force the chemicals inside a battery to flow in the OPPOSITE DIRECTION they want to take, the battery will charge (or be RENEWED).

Crucifying the flesh is about forcing the flesh to go in the direction it doesn't want to go. Unfortunately, doing this is NOT easy!

Matthew 5:28–29

²⁸ But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. ²⁹ And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Crucifying sinful lusts is a lot like amputating your own body! This is because our sins are part of who we are. In fact, we often say, "This is just who I am." But, this is NOT who we are. It's who we WERE!

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Finally, we should point out that forcing the chemicals in a battery to flow in the opposite direction requires a lot of power. Similarly, you cannot crucify the flesh (force it to go in a direction it does not want to go) through willpower alone. It's takes power from God!

Romans 8:9

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.