

ENEMIES OF THE SOUL PART 2

1 Peter 2:11 KJV 1900

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

The reason Peter addresses them as “strangers and pilgrims” is to remind them that our kingdom is not of this world. He ALSO wants them to know that fleshly (worldly) lusts are at war against the soul. We might even say that our greatest enemy is the flesh.

Now, some people might argue that our greatest enemy is the devil. But, as we have learned, if you get rid of the devil without also getting rid of the flesh (or our sinful lusts), the devil will simply return!

So, the question is, “How can we crucify the flesh (get rid of our fleshly lusts)?”

1 John 1:9 KJV 1900

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession (repentance) is the first step towards sanctification. Now, we might think that we are cleansed the moment we confess our sins. However, this cleansing (at least when it comes to our unrighteousness) takes place through a process. This process begins with confession because confession leads to the forgiveness of sins.

1 John 2:1–2 KJV 1900

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

‘Propitiation’ is how we receive forgiveness of sins. The word is synonymous with ‘atonement’ and means a covering. When we repent the blood provides us with a covering. And this ‘covering’ helps to restore our fellowship with the Father. Moreover, fellowship is needed to obtain sanctification.

Hebrews 12:14 KJV 1900

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Notice, neither peace nor sanctification is something you can achieve overnight. You must ‘follow after’ it (pursue with intense effort).

1 John 1:7 KJV 1900

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

The blood that is mentioned here refers to the LIFE of Jesus. Notice, the blood (life) of Christ is applied as we walk in the light. This means, God doesn't cleanse us from sin, specifically our unrighteousness, the moment we repent or confess our sins. We are cleansed AS we 'walk in' (follow after) the light.

John gives a more detailed explanation of this process later in his epistle.

1 John 3:5 KJV 1900

5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Here we learn that sanctification (taking away sin) is something that happens ***when Christ is manifested.***

Now, when John talks about Christ being *manifested*, he's not just talking about Christ being manifested in the incarnation (coming as a man). He's ALSO talking about Christ being manifested in us.

1 John 3:2 KJV 1900

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

The word "appear" in verse 2 is the same word that is translated "manifested" in verse 5. Here, John is talking about Christ 'appearing' (or being manifested) in our bodies. Now, whether Christ is manifested in the incarnation or in our bodies, the result is still the same—our sins are taken away!

1 John 3:8 KJV 1900

8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

There are several things to take note of in this verse. First, if any man commits sin, that part of him that commits sin is *of the devil*. (Therefore, our flesh/fleshly lusts must be of the devil because this is what causes us to sin.) The second thing we notice from this verse is, the only thing that's able to destroy *the works of the devil* (or the flesh) is the manifestation of the Son of God!

1 John 3:9 KJV 1900

⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Understand, John is still talking about the man in whom Christ is manifested. According to this verse, the man in whom the Son of God is manifested cannot sin. (In fact, we might say to the extent in which the Son of God is manifested in us, is the extent in which we will not sin.) Finally, the man in whom Christ is manifested is described as being ‘born of God.’ Therefore, being ‘born of God’ (or born again) is synonymous with Christ coming to dwell (being manifested) in you!

Someone might say, “I’m born again. Why is Christ not taking away my sins?” We must understand that being ‘born again’ is a process. That is, it’s possible to be born again ‘in spirit’ AND to be born again ‘in soul.’

John 1:12–13 KJV 1900

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Apparently, believing on the Son (word) will result in a born again experience. However, this born again experience takes place in our *spirit*. There’s also a ‘born again’ experience that takes place in the soul.

1 Peter 1:22–23 KJV 1900

²² Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: ²³ Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Peter is speaking here about being ‘born again’ in soul. There are 2 things to take note of regarding being ‘born again in soul’: 1) this born again experience takes place as we OBEY THE TRUTH, and 2) this born again experience is synonymous with the *purification of our souls* or SANCTIFICATION.

Therefore, when we OBEY THE WORD Christ comes to dwell (is manifested) in us!

John 14:21 KJV 1900

²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Notice, will Christ manifest Himself to those who keep His commandments! It's important to understand that this 'manifestation' is NOT public (or to everyone).

John 14:22 KJV 1900

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

Apparently, the disciples understood that this 'manifestation' Jesus was talking would not be public (or outward). Instead, it would be secret (or inward). It would ONLY be to those (in those) who love Him and keep His commandments!

John 14:23 KJV 1900

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Notice, we're right back to this idea of "fellowship." As we said, fellowship is the key (essence) of sanctification!

John 17:19, 21 KJV 1900

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.