

We're going to have some fun today...gonna use a bunch of illustrations from the 1600 – 1700's

- In part to take us back to a time when putting sin was taken seriously by Christians
 - Great Awakening – J. Edwards 'Sinners Hands' | Judgment = Terrifying - Painful – Deserved
 - If you taught that today you'd be considered judgmental and condemnatory

Today it is offensive in church to define sin and discuss sin and do you know what that is? Sinful
Overcorrect – SIN ⇒ Grace | New Mexican Diver...Ice | Stay Narrow | Sin is Serious & Grace is Sweet
Make too much of sin...degrade grace (follow) | Make too little of sin...depreciate grace (no need)
The right understanding of sin magnifies the grace we have been given by God in Christ

Context: 1-2: READ | v.5 = Earth | v.12 = God's Chosen | Citizens of Heaven...put to death...put on
Colossians 3:5-11 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

1700s England - Olaudah Equiano - Captured & sold into slavery – Age 11...traded and sold...

- Christian – Robert King | Read – Write – Business – Gospel – Freed him at age 21
What if, after being set free, Olaudah had submitted himself back into slavery? Nice...but 'no'

Citizens of Heaven...Don't return to slavery...having a new life in Christ means putting sin to death
Big idea – We Destroy Sin so We Can Live our Salvation

Christians...our identity and position is that of free men and women – Set on things above...however...

- We still live in a fallen world and the temptation to get sucked back into the slavery of sin is great
Verses aren't here to beat us up or to shame us – there's no condemnation for us who are in Christ
Instead...Remind us who we are...and who we're not

Sin is Serious & Grace is Sweet – We Destroy Sin so We Can Live our Salvation

1. Sin: Divides Us from God (5-7)

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

How serious is Paul? 'Put to death' = Mortify | Kill | Be the executioner of what is earthly in you
No passive executioners - Carried out hundreds ways...“waiting for nature” isn't a method

- Putting sin to death requires action – Too much surrender and not enough slaughter

What do we put to death?

- Sexual Immorality – Sexual activity outside marriage bond between man & woman | ONE DAY
 - Prevalence – Dangerous – Epitomizes sin = My body | People exist me...Pleasure & Gratification
- Impurity / Passion / Evil Desires = Thoughts and actions that God has forbidden
- Covetousness which is idolatry - Desiring what you have no rightful claim | Why should we death

On account of these the wrath of God is coming - God's wrath is must as much a part of who He is as love
Never more arrogant idea = 'God is just going to let what He hates most go unpunished'

Wolf – I'll just tell God I didn't agree with what He considered sin...bad call (World smells) | Wrath God
Profound - (7) In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

- For the Christian the Wrath of God has already been satisfied in Christ...So put the old to death
Too many of us treat sin like running into a High School Friend at the grocery store...Coffee...
- Passive Executioners...imagine...funny...you can...who we are | Too much surrender...slaughter

Jesus unified us w/ God...can't be destroyed...can be disciplined...sin keeps us from experiencing unity
Sin is evil...Continue give sin a foothold...creating a distance between ourselves & God who saved us

2. Sin: Distances Us from Each Other (8-9)

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another

Put them all away: things we get rid of: Emotion and communication that does honor the Lord

- Why would you ever talk with anger or wrath | Malice (ill intent) | Slander | Obscenity | Lie
We're selfish | Spin – Embellishment – Blame shifting – Weaponizing words – Selective Omissions
Self-preservation at the expense of others...RUNIS RELATIPNSHIPS

Put away any attempt to use your words to build yourself up at the expense of others.
Words are a powerful weapon that can be leveraged to win or lose the war for genuine relationships

Contrition Goes a Long Way to Restoring Relationships

seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

1665 – Great Plague of London – Plague – Clothing given poor...fleas...found out...burned them!
Make a burn pile | Check: Desires – Actions – Thoughts – Relationships – Communication (TIME)

3. Salvation: Undoes our Enmity (10)

and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

When we were saved...died to our old self-centered pursuits...were put off in favor of something new

- This new self is the identity we have in Christ and its completely & irreversibly when he saved us
- And this new self was not an improvement in ourselves, but a completely different nature.
- In the same way, the new self isn't an improvement in our relationship with God, but a reversal
From enemies of God subject to His wrath - To friends of God, protected from wrath and given grace

What's more, this new nature and new relationship isn't static

- Once our enmity with God was undone, the door was opened for it to be replaced
Look at the second part of verse 10: Our new selves are being renewed in knowledge
Here's a gut check...have your worldly philosophies been replaced with heavenly understanding
- Tough...worldly philosophies are cloaked in good words like: 'Identity' – 'choice' – 'Empowerment'
Saved people subscribe to knowledge that has eternal value...why?

Because it's knowledge that comes from the image of the creator

This is why destroying sin matters so much:

- Our renewal - growth in knowledge - conforming to image of Creator, is ongoing & it's beautiful
Why tarnish the beauty with the ugliness of impurity, greed, and selfishness?

Artist – Throwing mud | Makes process: More painful – Less clear – Less Joyful

God is painting something beautiful in you as he renews you...sin damages the artistry!

The beauty is that God is not just painting something beautiful in you, but all Christians collectively

4. Salvation: Unites us Under Christ (11)

Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Any worldly system, and for that matter any works-based religious system, is at its heart divisive
It creates division between people based on any number of things, and Paul addresses these divisions:

- Greek and Jew: Based on Nationality or Heritage
- Circumcised and uncircumcised: Based on Religious Ritual or Tradition
- Barbarian, Scythian: Based on Outsider Status (barbarians and Scythians were the "others")
- Slave, free: Based on Position in Society | Gut Check: Who do you look down on? Because...

As Christians none of these divisions matter – Each of us needs redemption

Every one of us who has been saved is saved into the same kingdom and the same identity
Listen: It's not that distinguishing factors cease to exist...they cease to matter because Christ is greater

Christ is all: Salvation is through Christ...our purpose now is to see Christ glorified

- What would it look like for Christ to be all, and in all in us?
 - What if we put sin to death in our lives
 - If we destroyed the things that divide our fellowship with God,
 - Refused the attitudes that create distance between one another?
- After all, that's who we are. Galatians says – you're free, why return to the yoke of slavery?

Take a page from two brothers from the 1700's

- Jonathan Edwards was right – Sin is serious
- Olaudah Equiano (O-Lada E-Quano) was right – Grace is sweet
 - Equiano didn't return back to slavery once he was set free
 - He dedicated the rest of his life to ending slavery once and for all...seeing others set free

We destroy sin so we can live our salvation