

Col 3:5
Practical Christian Living, Pt. 1
“Put To Death Your Members”

Introduction

We saw last week in verses 1-4, the first step in Sanctification is to understand and live in the Spiritual Reality, so then we are “**IN UNION WITH CHRIST**”. He is in us, and we in Him, and we are already seated with Him in the heavenly places.

Now we take the first practical step to live the Sanctified life!

Col 3:5

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

3:5a Therefore

Col 3:5 Therefore

A. Therefore:

What is the “Therefore, therefore?”

Thinking about these first 4 verses of Chapter 3,

“WHICH IS THE FIRST STEP OF LIVING THE SANCTIFIED LIFE”!!!!

Col 3:1-4

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 **For you died**, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God**. 4 **When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory**.

What did we learn last week, from these first 4 verses?

B. So how does Sanctification begin for us as Believers according to Col 3:1-4?

Paul explains that it happens with an attention to a new direction of focus!

1. We should look *upward* to Christ’s reign and His position at the right hand of the Father!
2. We should understand that spiritual truths, and the reality of Christ, and the Heavens, is what we must base our day to day walk on; Spiritual truths!!
3. We are to Daily remember His coming return for us, and we will appear with Him in Glory!

This is the process we call “**Sanctification**”. It’s learning to make real in your life what Jesus has done for you. It’s taking the next step in the journey to heaven.

3:5 Put to death your members

Col 3:5

5 Therefore **put to death your members** which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

A. Put to death your members:

This phrase can be meant in a “literal way”, or also in a “figurative way” as it is here.

We died with the Lord but sin did not die in us, so now we have to put away the sin which still remains in us.

Put to death - *nekroo* – **to make dead**, to put to death; **to deprive of power**

- Here’s the odd thing – Paul has already made a case that we are “dead”, that we’ve “died with Christ”. (Col 2:20; 3:3)
- Now Paul tells these “dead” people to “put to death” these things.

Members:

melos – a member, limb: a part of the human body.

Paul is using the language that describes the parts of a body.

Note:

Same word, “melos” as in Rom 12 and 1 Cor 12, when Paul is talking about we, that is, “the church” are one body but many **members** (*melos*) such as hands, feet, etc. and Christ is the head.

Important Note:

But instead of talking about hands, feet, and arms, he says that we have body parts called “fornication, passion, and covetousness”, etc.

Remember Paul talks about this “sinful condition” or our “sinful human flesh”:

Remember back in Ephesians?

Eph 2:3

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, **AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH**, just as the others.

James says, the same thing!

James 4:1

1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? **Do they not come from your desires for pleasure THAT WAR IN YOUR MEMBERS (melos)?**

Paul explains it in detail the best one can!!!!

Rom 7:14-25

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

15 **For what I am doing, I do not understand.**

For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.

17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

18 **For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;**

for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

20 **NOW IF I DO WHAT I WILL NOT TO DO, IT IS NO LONGER I WHO DO IT, BUT SIN THAT SWELLS IN ME.**

21 I find then a **law** (*i.e. principle of truth*), that **EVIL IS PRESENT WITH ME, THE ONE WHO WILLS TO DO GOOD.**

22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

23 But I see another **law** (*principle*) 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.

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me **FROM THIS BODY OF DEATH?**

25 I thank God -- through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law (*principle*) of sin.

Rom 8:12-13

12 Therefore, brethren, **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.**

So how do you put to death the members of your sinful body, that is (“fornication, passion, and covetousness, etc.)?

Answer: by “walking in the Spirit”!

Gal 5:16-17

16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; **and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.**

Important note:

It “is NOT” by not being in the flesh!!! But “IT IS” by, being or walking in the Spirit.

The emphasis is from the “**positive**” of “walking or being in the Spirit”, and “**NOT**” by “stop being in the flesh”.

So, what is the answer to overcoming this “SINFUL NATURE” of ours?

Peter says the same thing, we are to put the emphasis on the “great and precious promises” that come from God, revealed to us through the word.

2 Peter 1:4

4 **by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

Note:

We escape this corruption, that is in this world, including our own sinful nature, by once again, the positiveness of “God’s word” and the precious promises that come from it!

It is NOT a legalistic list of “Do’s and Don’ts”, which are in the negative.

For example:

- Put our flesh to death by stop going to the beach where there are girls in bathing suits.
- Throw your TV in the trash.

- **Stop....this... And Start....that...**

But Rather:

Jude 1:20-21

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Spirit,**

21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Psalms 119:9

9 How can a young man cleanse his way?

By taking heed according to Your word.

Psalms 119:11

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart,

That I might not sin against You.

3:5 The first list Paul declares, 5 Things we are told to “Put to Death
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Col 3:5

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: **fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

A. The first list Paul declares, 5 Things we are told to “Put to Death, or Romans 6:11 says, “reckon yourselves to be dead”:

....fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

In this first of two lists Paul deals with sins related to the desires of the flesh (**sexual sins**) while second deals with that of hate and unforgiveness.

1. Fornication (or Immorality):

The Greek word is “**porneia**” from which we get the word **pornography**:

In the Greek it refers to any sexual sin. **That is, sex outside the boundaries of marriage.** Things like adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.

Historical in our country:

It used to be that our nation understood that two people needed to get married before having sex or living together.

It goes without saying, that the thinking and attitude towards sex has changed exponentially in our lifetime!!

- Now-a-days, sex seems to be understood that two people in love will have sex and live together long before they get married.
- God designed sex to be enjoyed in a specific environment of love, faithfulness, and commitment, that is found in the marriage union.
- The world will tell you that you need to try out sex before you get married to make sure you are compatible.
 - That is simply not true.
 - This is wrong thinking.
 - And sex comes after the wedding ceremony, in the bonds of matrimony.

Paul also says about this area or topic:

1 Cor 6:18-20

18 **Flee sexual immorality.** (i.e. like Joseph did in Genesis)

Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Thes 4:3-8

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 **that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,** 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

2. **Uncleanness** (or Impurity),

Akatharsia-“catharsis”=**is cleansing**, thus with the “A” in front it means, Acatharsis”, **that is when we fail to cleanse ourselves of evil things**, in particular sexually.

Which is referring to the sensuality of your thought life, including our sexual **thoughts** and **intentions**.

- Sinful behavior begins first as a thought.
- The battle over sin always begins with the mind,
- This is true, especially in the area of sexual temptation.
- Especially for men in this area of sexuality.

James 1:14-15

14 But each one is tempted when he is **drawn away by his own desires and enticed.** 15 Then, **when desire has conceived,** it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Prov 4:23

23 Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it spring the issues of life.

Jesus taught:

Mark 7:20-23

20 And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.21 **For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications,** murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

3. **passion,**

pathos – KJV = inordinate affections; refers to sexual passion in the body. Uncontrolled lust.

4. evil desire

kakos + epithymia = KJV = evil concupiscence; sexual cravings that are evil.

Note:

These 3 words, "uncleanness", "passion" and now "evil desire", are very similar. But I do think that it is showing how our desires and/or our passions can turn into something that everyone knows to not just to be sinful, but it is evil, and an abomination in God's sight.

For example:

Rom 1:26-27

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

5. covetousness,

(Greek pleonexia) is from two words pleon- more, and exo- to have, thus the desire to have more. It is referring to an insatiable desire to have more; to have what is forbidden. Maybe in this context more sexual desires than can be fulfilled (Gen 19, Sodom and Gomorrah)

Covetousness, in general, is addressed by Paul.

1 Tim 6:6-10

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- which is idolatry.

Paul refers to this sin as idolatry, sex in particular is the god that is worshiped.

Quote: (William Barclay writes (p. 152 in Phil, Col, Thes.)

When a person wants to have more and more beyond what God has given to them it becomes idolatry in the sense that the desires become more important than obeying God.

Apostle John's last words in 1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Note: "On Sex"

Now God is for sex!!

- God is the one who thought of it and made it.

- Sex is a good thing... in the right place at the right time...

Example:

Fire is wonderful in the fireplace of your house, but if it is not focused and watched it can get outside the fireplace and completely destroy the house, and kill or maim yourself and your family.

1. Importance of sex in marriage:

- Sex is a powerful bonding agent between a man and woman who have committed themselves to each other for life...
- The result is, refreshment and renewal of the affection and love between husband and wife...
- Song of Solomon:
Our bed is "green" means...a place of growth and refreshment... a place of renewal of life in their relationship...

2. We must learn to control other areas of "Powers", like Sex, that God gives us:

- Our Speech or Words, we can bless or destroy. But I can't just open my mouth and spew what I want....I have to control the tongue. (**James 3**)

Psalms 141:3

3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
Keep watch over the door of my lips.

- Just as God has given us **the power of our minds**, ability to create and build...
- Power of artistic expression, ability to deeply and beautifully communicate ideals...
- We too, need power over our bodies.

3. Sex is powerful and is more than a physical act, it involves the SOUL...

That which was meant to bring life and refreshment ends up bringing destruction and ruin when out of place...

1 Cor 6:18

18 **Flee sexual immorality**. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, **but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body**.

Conclusion
