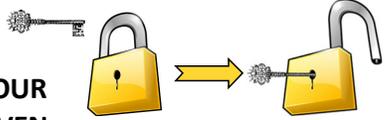


#35

KILLER SINS

Dealing with specific sins, not just generalities.

USING OUR GOD-GIVEN



POWER

FOR VICTORY over "I CRAVE" (and other killer sins).

✓ Victory requires a willingness to deal with **SPECIFIC SINS**, not just **VAGUE GENERALITIES**.

✓ This unlocks the way to **FREEDOM**.

HOW AM I TO LIVE ...AS UNITED WITH CHRIST?

IF WE ARE SAVED:

We NEED to change:
So Scripture tells us what we need to do.

We WANT to change:
So Scripture tells us what we want to do.

If we are saved, what we need and what we want will be the same!

HOW AM I TO LIVE ...AS UNITED WITH CHRIST?

➤ Much of the New Testament was written to "new born" Christians.

➤ As "new-borns," they needed to know how to live. So God sent the apostles to tell them!

I AM ALIVE!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?



HOW AM I TO LIVE ...AS UNITED WITH CHRIST?

➤ Of course, since their new birth was genuine, they also wanted to know how to live! So they were willing to do what the apostles told them.

YOU NEED TO LEARN TO WALK!



I WANT TO LEARN TO WALK!

A KEY CONCEPT

That unlocks the way to FREEDOM



UNITED WITH CHRIST

WHEN THIS IS TRUE OF US...



➤ We will be willing to deal with real sins, not just vague generalities.

➤ Willing to deal with *real sins* ...

Colossians 3: 1-17
illustrates this necessity.

UNION WITH CHRIST MEANS A WILLINGNESS TO ...

- ✓ **CHANGE** the way we think and what we live for.
- ✓ **OPPOSE** specific sins (not just vague generalities).
- ✓ **REPLACE** those sins with godly conduct.



COLOSSIANS 3:1-17 – LIVING AS UNITED WITH CHRIST!

IF YOU ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST, **THIS PASSAGE APPLIES TO YOU!**

YOU MUST CHANGE YOUR FOCUS.

[1] So if you have been **raised with Christ**, **seek the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

*** JESUS SAID THE SAME BASIC THING!**

But **seek first** his kingdom and his righteousness, ...
Matthew 6:33a (NIV)

THIS CHANGE IN FOCUS INVOLVES THE MIND: HOW YOU THINK AND WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT.

[2] Set your **minds** on things above, not on earthly things.

UNION WITH CHRIST IS THE REASON FOR IT.

[3] For **you died**, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
[4] When **Christ, who is your life**, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

THIS IS A SERIOUS ISSUE!!

- You can't live "yourself" AND be "united with Christ."
- You can't "appear with him in glory" (i.e., be saved eternally) if you aren't united with Christ!

IT'S YOUR LIFE OR HIS!
(YOU CAN ONLY CHOOSE ONE.)

WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT OF THIS CHANGED MIND – THIS EXPRESSION OF CHRIST'S LIFE IN US? A CHANGED WAY OF LIFE!

This ACT OF CHANGING is illustrated in 2 ways:

- 1 KILLING:** IF your *old* self is dead, then **YOU MUST KILL** your old actions.
- 2 TAKING OFF/PUTTING ON:** IF you replaced your *old* self with Christ, then **YOU MUST REPLACE** your old ways with new ones.

GOAL: To make your conduct match who you really are!

1 KILLING your old actions.

IF: ... YOU are dead, and the saving life of CHRIST is now in you...

THEN: ... YOU MUST **KILL** ANYTHING THAT IS AN EXPRESSION OF YOUR OLD DEAD SELF!

THE NEXT VERSE STARTS WITH THE WORD: Therefore, ...

It shows us that being "united with Christ"(v. 1-4) **requires** certain actions. (There are do other options.)



WHAT MUST BE DONE + SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES (more examples to follow)

[5] Therefore, **put to death** what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil **desire**,* and greed, which is idolatry.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO **DON'T** DO IT?

[6] Because of these, **God's wrath** is coming upon the disobedient, ...

REMINDER: SUCH THINGS ARE NOT A PART OF THE "NEW YOU" IN CHRIST!

[7] ... and you once walked in these things when you were living in them.

* (The killer sin "I CRAVE." Some of the other words, such as "lust," are closely related, and are often a part of this concept.)

2 TAKING OFF/PUTTING ON: Replacing old ways with new.

In the New Testament Greek language:

- These concepts were often used when describing taking off one set of clothes and putting on another.
- Some translations reflect this fact ...

... **you have stripped off** your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. In its place **you have clothed yourselves** with a brand-new nature ...

Col. 3:9b-10a (NLT)

It's a matter of replacement. We can't go just half-way!

"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.'

When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the **final condition of that man is worse** than the first."

Matthew 12:43-45a (NIV)

MORE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF THINGS TO GET RID OF → [8] But now, **put away** all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. [9] Do not lie to one another, ...

- These examples are all specific sins, not just vague generalities.
- Scripture doesn't just tell us to stop doing "bad things," but to deal with the "specific sins" that are in our lives!

TIME TO GET RID OF THE SPECIFIC SINS THAT ARE IN MY LIFE!

WHY MUST WE GET RID OF THEM? (v. 9b-11)

BECAUSE WE ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST! → ... since you have **put off** the old self with its practices [10] and have **put on** the new self.

BECAUSE OUR MINDS ARE BEING RENEWED! → You are being **renewed in knowledge** according to the image of your Creator.

BECAUSE IT APPLIES TO ALL WHO ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST → [11] In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

NO "EXCEPTIONS" CAUSED BY DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL STATUS!

WHY MUST WE PUT ON SOMETHING ELSE?

BECAUSE OF THE UNION AND RENEWAL MENTIONED IN THE PREVIOUS VERSES → [12] Therefore, ...

BECAUSE GOD HIMSELF HAS CHOSEN (AND EMPOWERED) YOU FOR THIS SPECIAL LIFE-CHANGING RELATIONSHIP → ... as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, ...

I TOOK OFF THE SIN... → **TIME TO PUT ON GODLY CHARACTER!**

TAKEN OFF → **PUT ON**

READY FOR SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES?

(not just vague generalities)

JUST AS: ... we are to deal with the specific sins in our lives ...

SO ALSO: ... we are to replace sin with specific godly character traits.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES! →

WHAT TO REPLACE SINFUL CONDUCT WITH?

LIVES CHARACTERIZED BY GODLY CHARACTER TRAITS! → ... put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ...

GODLY RESPONSE TO THE WEAKNESSES OF OTHERS ... → ... [13] bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another.

... FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE TOWARD US! → Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.

THE CHARACTER TRAIT THAT HOLDS EVERYTHING ELSE TOGETHER → [14] Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

NOTE:

ALL THESE CHARACTER TRAITS AFFECT THE WAY WE INTERACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE!

JUST AS: ... our sin affects other people ...

SO ALSO: ... our righteousness affects other people.

[Lives] filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

Philip. 1:11 (NIV)

LIFE IN CHRIST'S BODY: CHARACTERIZED BY GRATITUDE

HAVING LIVES CONTROLLED BY CHRIST'S PEACE (HARMONY) → [15] And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be **thankful**.

BASED ON THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S WORD (REINFORCED IN SONG) → [16] Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with **gratitude** in your hearts.

INFLUENCING EVERYTHING WE DO IN LIFE → [17] And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** to God the Father through him.

Scripture passage: Colossians 3:1-17 (CSB)

WOW! THERE'S A LOT I MUST DO!

BUT THERE'S A LOT OF POWER TO GET IT DONE!

IF YOU ARE FOLLOWING JESUS:

- ✓ You have been raised with Christ (v. 1).
- ✓ The "old you" is dead; your new life is in Christ (vs. 3-4).
- ✓ The ways of death are no longer a part of your new life (v. 7).
- ✓ You have taken off the old "self" and put on the new "self" (v. 9-10).
- ✓ Your mind is being renewed (v. 10).
- ✓ These things are true of you no matter what your background may be (v. 11).
- ✓ God has chosen you; he has set you apart for the purpose of being holy; and he loves you (v. 12).
- ✓ God has called you to the peace of unity (v. 15) and he provides you with his encouraging Word (v. 16).

THIS WEEK:

If you're following Jesus:

Remind yourself about the power you have
So that you can use that power
To become who you really are!

"Use your power."

... because it's his power in you!

Credits (1)

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