

Glorious Announcement: Jesus Calls You To Fight Sin In Your Life

Colossians 3:1-10

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / 27-Dec-2015

Even though we live a risen life with Christ now, we're still told we need to put sin to **death**. Why? Sin's penalty was removed from us at the cross, but the power is still alive and active in our fallen world and bodies.

3 [Not-So-] Easy Steps to Improve Your "Spiritual Hygiene" in 2016

1. You need to actively seek to PUT OFF sin in your life!

Col. 3:5,8,9

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you... ⁸ But now you must **put them all away**... ⁹ ...seeing that you have **put off the old self** with its practices

Eph. 4:22

²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

4 REASONS SIN **MUST** BE PUT TO DEATH

A. Sin brings forth death. It will either kill or be killed.

James 1:14,15

"But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, **and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.**"

"Use sin as it will use you; spare it not, for it will not spare you; it is your murderer, and the murderer of the world; use it, therefore, as a murderer should be used. Kill it before it kills you; and though it bring you to the grave, as it did your Head, it shall not be able to keep you there."

~ Richard Baxter, *A Puritan Golden Treasury*
[Edinburgh; Banner of Truth, 1977] p. 281

B. Sin invites God's judgment on unbelievers.

Col. 3:6

"On account of these the wrath of God is coming."

C. Sin invites God's discipline on believers.

Heb. 12:5b

⁵ ...My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord..."

D. Ongoing, conscious sin should be part of our past, not our present.

Col. 3:7

⁷ In these too you once walked, when you were living in them."

2. You need to BE RENEWED! Know what to STARVE and what to SATURATE in order to change your thinking.

Col. 3:10b ¹⁰and have put on the new self, **which is being renewed** in knowledge after the image of its creator.

A. Commit to STARVING your flesh.

Rom. 13:14 ¹⁴...**make no provision for the flesh**, to gratify its desires.

B. Commit to SATURATING yourself with two primary “means of grace” God has given us—the Word of God, and the people of God.

Philp. 4:8 ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **just**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if there is any **excellence**, if there is anything **worthy of praise**, **think about these things.**”

Heb. 10:24,25 ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

3. You need to PUT ON new ways of thinking, feeling & behaving that are more like Christ's!

Col. 3:10a ¹⁰and have **put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Eph. 4:24 ²⁴and to **put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Questions for Small Group/Personal Application:

- (1) Similar to a daily shower, is putting off sin and putting on Christ-likeness a normative part of your life?
- (2) By God's grace, do you seek to kill sin, or do you just occasionally push it away, kick it aside, maybe bruise it a bit...but consciously allow it to maintain a presence in your life?
- (3) Which sin(s) is God calling you to put on your “hit list” for 2016?
- (4) Old habits don't die, but must be replaced. What is God calling you to put on in place of these sin(s)?
- (5) We are members of one another (Eph. 4:25; Rom. 12:4,5). Who will you ask to help you with the starving of your flesh and/or the grace-saturation you need to put this sin(s) to death in 2016?