

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 22, 2024

“The 12 Keys to Spiritual Maturity ~

Key #3: Putting Sin to Death”

Colossians 3:1-11

One of the primary things that can hinder this growth is the presence of _____ within us.

_____our sinful habits is a mark of spiritual maturity. In fact, there can be no real _____without it.

Nekroo = to put off =

Apotithemi = to rid ourselves =

Both of these verbs refer to the process of _____ =

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:22-24)

3 THINGS ABOUT MORTIFICATION

#1. _____.

Yes, we’ve been _____ from sins’ reign through the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Yes, sin no longer has the same kind of _____ over us. However, we have not yet been freed from the _____ of sin.

“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.” (Romans 7:15-20)

If we want to be _____ in this inner battle, we need to face reality

“Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry).” (Colossians 3:5)

“But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander,

and abusive language from your mouth.” (Colossians 3:8)

We often get it _____, and try to stop doing a particular sin cold turkey. However, the sinful _____ and desires inside us need to be dealt with first, before we can begin to deal with sinful _____.

Our problem is simple and yet, we often fail to recognize the _____ of it: it’s _____.

We need to allow our _____ to be exposed by God’s Holy Spirit in order to reveal the _____ of sin’s ravages upon us.

Unless we can identify—or _____—our poisons, we won’t know what the correct _____ is.

Spiritual maturity happens when we _____ those things within us that are out of line with the things of God; when we name those sins that _____ in our lives.

However, before we can do that, we have to acknowledge the _____ to do it in the first place.

Knowing and admitting the true _____ of our heart means that our spiritual _____ have been opened and we can finally begin to deal with our spiritual garbage.

Are you aware of the battle the rages within you between flesh and spirit, your old nature and your new nature?

Are you able to identify and name the sin that resides in you?

#2. _____.

“Mortify, therefore your members which are upon the earth.” (Col 3:5 KJV)

Paul isn’t suggesting that we cut our hands off to prevent us from sinning, but rather that we fully appreciate that the way sin _____ in our lives is often via the _____ of our body. In other words, this is a call to _____ holiness.

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

The concept of holiness in the NT clearly includes the transformation of what we do with our _____ and not just our hearts and minds.

The first list of five sins in verse 5 moves from _____ acts to internal _____.

Sexual _____ = **porneia**. It's where we get the English word 'pornographic,' and covers all forms of _____ sexual activity.

Paul links these external activities with an attitude of the heart: _____. He doesn't want us to be fooled, but to understand that what the mind lingers on in _____, the body will eventually want to do.

Then comes _____, which are passions that _____ us, uncontrolled and uncontrollable.

_____ is the next word, which is something that is out of _____.

Paul ends the list by suggesting that all sexual deviance is a form of greed, which is ultimately _____. These sins are _____ at their heart.

Although sin has distorted what God intended to be a beautiful thing, true holiness, demands total sexual _____.

Paul offers two _____ for holy living in this chapter. In verses 1-4 the motive is _____. However here, the motive is negative. The wrath of God is coming on those who do not _____.

In verse 8, Paul moves from _____ emotions to external _____.

He begins with _____: that spirit of being opposed in a hostile way to things that God desires for our lives.

To help us understand what he means, Paul adds the word _____, which differs from regular anger in its intensity and potential to cause harm to self and others.

Then comes _____, a refusal to forgive, and an ally of _____.

Next is _____—defaming someone's character.

And finally, _____ language, which is using our words as a weapon to harm.

We'll never _____ and grow in our faith until we bring the surgeon's knife of God's _____ to the things that Paul lists here.

Sin can't always be dealt with _____.

“Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.” (Colossians 3:9-10)

This isn't just a call for truthfulness, but also for _____, transparency, and _____.

If we're going to be able to function in Christian fellowship, we need to stop _____ that we're better than we are.

Do you see the presence of the sins that Paul lists in your life? Do you struggle with purity?

Have you hurt others as a result of the sin that's within you?

#3. _____.

These two verbs that Paul uses here to describe mortification need to be _____ on our hearts

“But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16)

It also calls to mind the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount that urge us to pluck out our eyes or sever our hands instead of sinning. Jesus isn't being _____ here, but rather commenting on the _____ of sin and the _____ that's needed in order to effectively deal with it.

The tense of these two verbs in the original Greek is _____. In other words, putting to death and ridding ourselves of sin isn't a one time thing, but _____; something we need to do every day.

It's a _____ on-going battle that will be fought on the battle field of our heart and mind and in our members everyday until we _____.

Paul isn't just concerned with the _____ to mortify sin, but rather the desire to be _____ of it altogether.

Are you engaged in the battle?

Do you desire to be holy as God is holy?

Are you prepared to do what ever it takes to vanquish the sin within you?