

“Being Changed to Live Like Jesus”

How to Put Sin to Death

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Steve Freeburne / July 4, 2004

I. Review

What has to change?	Biblical change requires REPENTANCE	Godly sorrow which brings REPENTANCE requires
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our HEART• Our DESIRES• Our MOTIVES• Our MIND• Our ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It means to change our mind and purpose with regard to sin• Repentance involves the use of our MIND, EMOTION, & WILL• Godly sorrow brings repentance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HUMILITY• DILIGENCE• CLEARING OUR CONSCIENCE• INDIGNATION• ALARM• ZEAL• LONGING• RESTITUION

II. Before we can put sin to death we must believe that the power of sin in our lives has been broken.

Sin’s power has been broken because of my relationship with Christ. This relationship has produced a new creation, including

- a new heart: **Ezekiel 36:26**
- a new song: **Psalms 40:3**
- a new spirit: **Ezekiel 18:31**
- a new name: **Revelation 2:17**

The true believer in the day when he first came to Christ died to sin as to its power. Sin had been sitting on a high throne in his heart, but faith pulled the tyrant down and rolled him in the dust, and though it still survives to vex us, yet its reigning power is destroyed. From the day of our new birth, if we be indeed true Christians, we have been dead to all sin’s pleasures. The varnish and gilt have been worn off from the palaces of sin. We defy sin’s most skillful enchantments; it might warble sweetest music, but the dead ear is not to be moved by melodies. Keep thy bitter sweets, O earth, for those who know no better

delicacies; our mouths find no flavor in your dainties. We are dead to sin’s bribes. We curse the gold that would have bought us to be undutiful, and abhor the comforts which might have been the reward of iniquity. We are dead to its threatening, too. When sin curses us, we are as little moved by its curses as by its promises. **Death and Life in Christ**, A sermon by Charles Spurgeon 1863

II Corinthians 5:17 NIV: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, then new has come!

Secondly, sin’s power in my life has been broken because God’s grace demands it.

When we properly understand the grace of God, we begin to hear it calling, even demand, that we change. To fully comprehend the grace of God is difficult, because no parallel exists, and no comparison comes close... In every believers life are times when he glimpses, just for a moment, how desperately lost he really is. During those seconds, the abundant mercy and amazing grace of our loving God dawns briefly upon our forgetful minds. Right at that moment we understand deep within that God’s grace cannot be abused or ignored. Such grace should fuel our passion to be like Him. ***I Really Want to Change...So Help me God***, James MacDonald page 104-105

Romans 6:1-2a: What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid (ungenoito: may it not be)

Thirdly, sin’s power in my life has been broken because Christ’s victory assures it.

There is no chance for holiness apart from spiritual union with Jesus Christ. This truth marks an essential difference between biblical Christianity and every other religion. Whereas in natural religion men try to live holy lives in order to get to God, in true Christianity men live holy lives after God has gotten to them. ***Union with Christ***, Michael Barrett

Romans 6:7-9 NLT: For when we died with Christ, we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also share his new life. We are sure of this because Christ rose from the dead, and he will never die again.

Fourthly, sin’s power in my life has been broken because my experience confirms it.

Colossians 1:6 NLT: This same gospel that came to you is going out all over the world. It is changing lives everywhere, just as it changed yours that very first day you heard and understood the truth about God’s great kindness to sinners

W.H. Griffith Thomas noted in his commentary on Colossians chapter one that as we make the Word of God our daily, definite and direct study it “purifies the perceptive faculties by its cleaning power; it illuminates the moral faculties with its enlightening power; it controls the emotional faculties with its protective power; and it energizes the volitional faculties with its stimulating power.”

To have biblical change in our lives we **MUST** believe that the power of sin in our lives has been broken.

III. Putting Sin to Death involves three specific actions that each of us needs to take

Romans 8:13 NIV: If you live by the sinful nature you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live...

“Put to death” literally the Greek means to that away the life.

John Owen in his book titled *Sin*, pages 154-159 says [Putting to death the misdeeds of the body] robs sin of it debilitating, inharmonious and emotionally distracting influences. Without [putting to death of the misdeeds of the body] sin darkens the mind, while the lusts of the flesh grow like weeds. [Putting to death the misdeeds of the body] is the soul’s vigorous opposition to the fruitless self-life.

The three steps involved in putting sin to death can best be remembered by thinking of what it takes to stop a speeding motorcycle in the instant we see something in the road ahead. We must

- Recognize the danger
- Take away the fuel
- Apply the brakes

First let’s talk about recognizing the danger.

Psalms 119:59 NIV: I have considered my ways and turned my steps to your statutes.

When the mind repents of ill ways the feet are soon led into good ways; but there will be no repenting until there is deep, earnest thought. Many men are averse to thought of any kind, and as to thought about their ways, they cannot endure it, for their ways will not bear thinking of. Action without thought is folly, and thought without action is [laziness]: to think carefully and then to act promptly is a happy combination. *The Treasury of David*, Charles Spurgeon, volume III page 255

Secondly, we need to take away the fuel.

Taking away the fuel from our sin nature will most likely involve physical separation from the points of temptation in your life.

II Corinthians 10:13 NIV: No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. Therefore, my dear friends flee from idolatry.

II Corinthians 10:5 NIV: We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Third, we must apply the brakes

I Peter 2:11 NIV: Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

The word abstain means to deliberately choose not to do something. This is taking away for fuel from our sin nature.

What practices are there in your life that are fueling the power of your sin nature. Deliberately choose to STOP.

Romans 13:14 NIV: ... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Lasting change ... can come only when the flesh is being exposed and restrained. Be sure, however, when talking about self-denial that you don’t leave the impression that spirituality is measured by what we DON’T DO. If that were the case, the most godly people are the ones already in the cemetery... The actual production of spiritual fruit in us is the work of the Spirit of God along. *Changed into His Image*, Jim Berg page 107

IV. The Holy Spirit empowers us but the choice to put sin to death is ours?

Martin Lloyd Jones, in his book *The Sermon on the Mount* commented on Matthew 5:8: “Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God” by saying “Who are the pure in heart? ... They are those who are mourning about the impurity of their hearts. Because the only way to have a pure heart is to realize you have an impure heart, and to mourn about it to such an extent that you do that which alone can lead to cleansing and purity.”

Remember Duke Ranald, a 14th century monarch of what is now Belgium. His nickname was FATS.

Titus 2:11-12 NIV: For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The chains of sin are broken for you; you are free to do what is right.

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