**Fighting Crucified Zombies**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday November 28th, 2021

Text: Colossians 3:1-5

### Intro

1. Jesus lived, died and was buried, and then rose from the dead (I Cor. 15:1-4).
2. Romans 6:1-2: Christians are said to have “died to sin” and so are to no longer live in sin.
3. Romans 6:3-7: Obedience to the gospel through baptism sees the sinner “crucify” the old self (sinful life) with Christ, being buried with Christ, and raising up to walk in “newness of life,” “freed from sin,” as a righteous saint!
   1. In this one shares in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus!
4. Colossians 3:1-4: The change that takes place to make one a Christian is so profound that it is called dying and living again.
5. Zombies in pop-culture: Risen undead, decayed(-ing), rotted corpses seeking one thing: brains!
   1. Romans 7:21-25: Saints have a constant battle for control of our minds, a war of two natures: The flesh with its desires and the spirit that desires to do good.
   2. Romans 8:5-8: Sometimes that “old self” who was “crucified” rises up in our lives. The “crucified zombie” wants our brains, that is, to control our mind, to act on its lusts!
   3. Not merely (just) bad habits, but the old self is ugly, grotesque, and is dangerous!
6. Colossians 3:5: Paul says saints are to put to death certain things! (These should have been “crucified” at baptism, but they arise and must be battled and buried all over again.)
7. Saints often must fight crucified zombies! *(An inner battle that must be won!)*

#### Dead to Sin, Alive In Christ

* 1. Colossians 3:3: “You have died”
     1. “Death” is separation:
        1. *Js. 2:26:* Physical death is the separation of the spirit from the body.
        2. *Eph. 2:1:* Spiritual death is man’s spirit separated from God by sin.
     2. We can be dead *in* sin, or dead *to* sin. *(Rom. 6:1-7)*
        1. Col. 3:3: “Dead” also indicates the relationship of the Christian to the world and its lusts.
        2. Col. 3:7: Dying to the old life is choosing to no longer live in sin (slaves to sin) but live in righteousness (slaves of obedience) – *Rom. 6:16-18*
  2. The problem: Sin didn’t die! *(Rom. 7:21-23: War of two natures)*
     1. The pull of the world is ever present: lusts and temptation don’t give up!
  3. Our “life” must be “hidden in Christ” (Col. 3:3)
     1. Gal. 2:20: Our old self must be “crucified with Christ” so our new self can live by faith in Christ!
  4. We must be dead *to* sin to truly live *in* Christ!

#### Fighting Crucified Zombies

* 1. Colossians 3:5: Those who have died (Col. 3:3) are to “put to death” (NET, NKJV) certain things.
     1. Gal. 5:24: “Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”
     2. Rom. 8:12-14: If “you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live”
  2. Sometimes the old self doesn’t stay dead and needs to be fought and killed all over again!
  3. Immorality (NASU)/Sexual Immorality (NET)/Fornication (NKJV)
     1. *I Cor. 6:13-20:* This is a sin that was a problem then and is now.
        1. Sexual Immorality or Fornication is sex outside of marriage.
        2. More and more studies and surveys show American couples are living together rather than getting married.
     2. I Cor. 6:15-16, 18: Our bodies belong to Christ and are not to be used immorally. (Fornication is sin and doesn’t belong in life of saint – Eph. 5:3)
     3. Heb. 13:4: Sex is a sacred thing to be enjoyed between a husband and wife.
     4. Saints are to “put it to death!”
  4. Impurity (NASU)/Uncleanness (NKJV)
     1. This is described as lustful living and sexual perversion.
        1. Impurity is described as a state of physical or moral filthiness, especially in relation to sexual sin: moral uncleanness *(Strong’s G167).*
     2. *Rom. 1:18-32:* Moral degradation of a society begins with exchanging the truth of God for a lie and serving the created rather than the Creator (Rom. 1:25).
        1. Rom. 1:24, 26-27: Homosexuality is called “impurity.”
     3. Lustful living, IE: pornography, and all other forms of sexual enticement *outside of marriage* are impure and condemned.
        1. Mt. 5:27-28: To think about it is to do it.
        2. Mt. 15:19: Committing fornication is evil.
        3. Eph. 5:3: Impurity is not to be named among saints!
     4. Saints are “to put it to death!”
  5. Passion (NASU)/Shameful Passion (NET)
     1. Strong’s says this Greek word is “lust” *(G3806).*
     2. Lust is forbidden desire and is aroused by dancing, pornography, dirty speech, etc. (Eph. 5:3-5: Not fitting for the life of a saint!)
     3. Js. 1:14-15: We are tempted by what we lust after, which means we want to do it! When we give in *(lose battle with crucified zombie)* we are guilty of sin!
     4. Saints are “to put it to death!”
  6. Evil desire (NASU)
     1. *Strong’s G1939* is also lust, but this word means a longing [for what is forbidden]; desire, lust.
     2. Evil desires describe desires/lusts for things man is forbidden to have by God: fornication, thievery, sexual immorality, anything forbidden by God.
     3. James 1:21: Saints are to “put aside” (put to death) all that remains of wickedness!
     4. Saints are “to put it to death!”
  7. Greed (NASU)/Covetousness (NKJV) & Idolatry
     1. The unholy lust/desire for *things!*
     2. Eph. 5:3-5: The covetous/greedy person is an idolater and has no part in Christ.
     3. I Thess. 1:9; I John 5:21: Saints are those who turn from idols to serve the Living God (as the Thessalonians had done!)
     4. Saints are “to put it to death!”
  8. Being alive in Christ requires saints to “put to death” the sinful ways of the old self!

#### Motivation to Live in Christ

* 1. Colossians 3:8-11: Realization of what God in Christ *has done* for us – *Col. 1:13-14; 3:1*
     1. Rescued us from our sins and He sits at the right hand of God.
  2. Confidence in what Christ *will do* for us – Col. 3:4
     1. Will come again and saints will dwell with Him in His glory.
  3. “Lay aside the old self” *(Col. 3:9)*
     1. Take action: put sinful living to death! *(Sometimes we must battle “crucified” zombies – Gal. 5:24)*
  4. “Put on the new self” *(Col. 3:10)*
     1. Take action: live according to the knowledge of Christ!
  5. Replace evil with good *(Col. 3:12-17: Share in traits of Deity!)*
     1. Once the sinful is out, replace it with good!
  6. For our lives to be truly “hidden in Christ” (Col. 3:3) we must “put to death” the sinful practices of the world!

## Conclusion

1. God’s demand does not fit the view of grace some have that says you can go on sinning and God will still take care of you.
   1. *Rom. 6:1-2: We are to be “dead to sin” and live in it no more!*
2. Whatever is in your life that belongs to your “old self” “put it to death!” (Col. 3:5)
3. If not a Christian, you need to be. Put to death the old self and be made alive in Christ!
4. If a Christian that has erred, repent & “put to death” the things of the world and live in Christ!
5. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!