

Spiritual Homicide
Colossians 3:1-10, Deuteronomy 20:16-18
July 1, 2018

- I've had it. I don't know how much more I can take.
- For decades I've tried to live the abundant life, the new life in Christ we talked about last week.
- But someone always mucks it up. Somebody in this room!
- I even wrote a song about it.
- I'm desperate.
- And who is it that keeps me from fully living the new life in Christ?

1. The old self hinders me from living the new life in Christ

Romans 7:15, 18-19 *15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ... 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*

- Do you ever experience that?
- I'm not going to talk that way anymore.
- React... Eat... Listen to that stuff ...

Galatians 5:17 *For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

- There's a war going on inside between the old self and the new self.
- There's only one way to resolve it.
- Elimination.

2. I have to get rid of the old self.

Ephesians 4:20-24

But that is not the way you learned Christ!—

21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

22 to

23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

24 ***and***

Galatians 5:17

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

I Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

10 ***nor***

that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

11 ***And***

- **Change is possible!**
- **But we can't just lock the old self up in jail.**
- **We can't exile him or restrict her activities.**
- **Like lice. Must be eliminated completely. Eradicated.**

3. The old self has to be killed.

Colossians 3:5, 8-9

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry ... ***8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy***

language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other,
since you have taken off your old self with its practices

Deuteronomy 20:16-18 However, in the cities of the nations
*the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, do
 not leave alive anything that breathes.* 17 Completely
*destroy them—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites,
 Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—as the Lord your God
 has commanded you.* 18 Otherwise, they will teach you
*to follow all the detestable things they do in worshiping
 their gods, and you will sin against the Lord your God.*

4. It's kill or be killed.
 Romans 8:6, 13 The mind governed by the flesh is death,
 but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ...
 13 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but
 if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,
 you will live.*

- Puritan John Owen, *Mortification of the Flesh.* "If you're not killing sin, sin will be killing you."

Colossians 3:6 Because of these, the wrath of God is
 coming.

Galatians 5:19-21 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual
immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and
*witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage,
 selfish ambition, dissensions, factions* 21 and envy;
*drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did
 before, that those who live like this will not inherit the
 kingdom of God.*

- The deeds of the old self keep me from enjoying the Kingdom of God.
- I can be jealous OR enjoy life in the Kingdom.
- I can get drunk OR enjoy life in life in the Kingdom.
- I can have a fit of rage OR enjoy life in the Kingdom.
- I can hold a grudge OR enjoy new life in Christ

- I can indulge my lusts OR enjoy “Abundant life.”
- It’s kill or be killed.
- So how do we kill the old self?
- In the parlor with a candlestick?
- Can’t bludgeon it to death.
- Can’t drown it.
- Can’t choke it.
- Not “two dogs fighting.” “The one I feed.”

5. The old self only dies by crucifixion.
 Mark 8:34 ***And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (ESV)***

- Take the old self to Christ.
- Baldness is my cross to bear. (Or a bad marriage, or a disability or disease.)
- These may be opportunities to bear a cross, in how we handle them.
- But taking up our cross means crucifying the old self.
- Not asceticism for its own sake.
- Deny the old self. Deny yourself the stuff that’s poison to the new life.

Romans 6:6, 11 ***We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ... 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.***

6. We kill the old self once and for all .
 Colossians 3:5a ***Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:***

- Aorist Active Imperative.

Mark 8:34c ... *let him deny himself and take up his cross*

...

- *Aorist Active*

7. We kill the old self daily.

Luke 9:23 *And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.* (ESV)

- *12 foot long cobra in my back yard. 2.5' Cottonmouth*
- *Freddy Krugger*
- *Don't be discouraged if he or she back tomorrow, or later today.*

8. We kill the old self because we are already raised with Christ.

Colossians 3:5 *Put to death therefore whatever belongs to your earthly nature.*

Colossians 3:1-3 *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

things above, not on earthly things. your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

2 *Set your minds on*
3 *For you died, and*

- *Gospel.*
- *Resurrection comes before crucifixion!*

Romans 6:13 *Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.*

- *You're not trying to create a new reality, but to live in the new reality God has created for you.*

9. We kill the old self through the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:13 *For if you live according* *to the flesh you*
will die, but if by the Spirit you *put to death* *the deeds of*
the body, you will live.

Galatians 5:16 *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will*
not gratify the desires of the flesh.

- *Focus on the Spirit-filled life.*
- *How to get air out of a glass.*
- *Let the Holy Spirit nail the old self to the cross.*
- *If we want to live the new life in Christ, we need to kill the old self.*
- *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature.*
- *It's time for spiritual homicide.*

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Deuteronomy 20:16-18

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I Corinthians 6:9- 11 *Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men [a] 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.* 11 *And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

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6. We kill the old self _____.
 (See Colossians 3:5a and Mark 8:34c)

7. We kill the old self _____.
 Luke 9:23 *And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (ESV)*

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