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Mortifying the Old Man

Intentional Christian Living, Part 1

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• *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

4

• *9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

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MORTIFYING THE OLD MAN

6

Mortifying the flesh

- "Mortify THEREFORE" – In view of the fact that your are to seek the heavenly, you must now slay the earthly.
 - A one-time yielding of your life to Christ
 - A continuing vigilance to "destroy by neglect" the sins of the flesh
 - Don't feed them
 - Don't focus on them

7

Seek the heavenly, slay the earthly

- Oriental, Greek, and Roman religions said little or nothing about personal holiness. A person could bring sacrifices, say prayers, and go away from the altar to commit terrible sins, and nobody would think he or she was inconsistent.
- Not so with Christianity! The new life within demands a new life without.

8

Mortify your members

- νεκρῶν – "put to death; kill"
 - Necrosis is where one part of the body begins to atrophy or die off without the normal attack by white blood cells (phagocytes).
 - It is "death by neglect."
 - Lack of circulation
 - Infection
 - Toxin

9

Romans 7:14-19

• *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

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Romans 7:20-25

• *20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*

11

Matthew 5:28-30

- *But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

12 **What are we to mortify?**

- Our mind seeks to serve God
- But our flesh seeks to follow our old sinful habits.
 - Attitudes, actions, habits, ego, selfishness

13 **WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT IT?**

14 **Sound Severe?**

- When the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed on April 19, 1995, one woman was trapped under a concrete beam.
- Rescuers gave her a choice: Either she let them saw off her leg or she would bleed to death.
- She chose to lose her leg instead of her life.

15 **Lust is not a "Victimless Crime"**

- Jesus used the RIGHT hand and the RIGHT eye for a reason.
- Eliminating a person's right eye or right hand would not solve the problem of lust. So why did Jesus include this in His command?
 - To make the severity of the sin more apparent.
 - To make people consider the symbolism of the right hand and right eye so they could see the CONSEQUENCES of lust.

16 **Galatians 6:8**

- *For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

17 **The Right Eye**

- Usually the dominant eye – one that controls the body.
- Eye tells much about the body. "The light of the body is the eye" (Matthew 6:22).
 - Lust deprives us of God's light – we lack wisdom when we lust.
 - Lust also dims the light that should shine from our eyes.
- The eye is also used figuratively to refer to our character – see Matthew 7:5.

18 **Psalm 19:8**

- *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*
- Our eyes should shine – they cannot do so when we are controlled by lust.

19 **Blindness**

- Losing an eye = loss of some vision
- II Peter 1:9 says that anyone who is NOT growing spiritually (and therefore would still be in bondage to lust) is "blind and cannot see afar off" (*myopia*) "and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."
- Jesus died to save you from "eyes full of adultery."

20 **A Symbol of Reproach**

- When Israel rejected God as a leader and demanded a king, a neighboring nation surrounded a city in Israel. The inhabitants asked the condition of surrender. The reply was "*On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.*"
- Lust and a lack of self-control is a reproach (blot, stain, disgrace, rebuke, disapproval) upon a person.

21 **The Right Hand**

- The right hand in Scripture symbolizes many things – all of which we lose when we yield to

- lust.
- In Galatians 2:9, it represents FELLOWSHIP. We lose deep fellowship with God and with other Christians when we give into lust.
 - Our #1 reason to conquer lust is to remove hindrances to our fellowship with Jesus!
- 22  **PUT OFF THE GRAVE CLOTHES**
- 23  **Put off the grave clothes**
- PUT OFF
 - Jesus left behind his grave clothes
 - Jesus instructed that Lazarus was to be freed from his grave clothes (John 11:44)
 - Romans 6:4 -- *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
- 24  **Put off sensual sins**
- Sensual sins
 - Fornication – sexual immorality in general
 - Uncleaness – lustful impurity and loose living
 - Inordinate affection – an excited state of mind making it easy to give into lustful desires
- 25  **Put off sensual sins (2)**
- Evil concupiscence – a state in which physical desires are dominant over a desire for God's will and His blessings
 - Desires lead to deeds
 - Appetites lead to actions
- 26  **Put off sensual sins (3)**
- Covetousness – always wanting what God has not given us (last of the 10 Commandments)
- 27  **Put off social sins**
- G. Campbell Morgan called these "sins in good standing" because they are more socially acceptable
 - Anger – a habitual attitude
 - Wrath – sudden outbursts
 - Malice – attitude of ill will toward an individual
 - Blasphemy – slanderous speech that tears down others (not just toward God); often masquerades as spiritual concern
- 28  **Put off social sins (2)**
- Filthy communication – foul speech, coarse humor, obscene language
 - Lying -- He wrote this same warning to the believers in Ephesus (Eph. 4:25).
 - Satan is the liar (John 8:44), while the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17; 15:26).
 - When a Christian lies, he is cooperating with Satan; when he speaks the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), he is cooperating with the Spirit of God.
 - Lying involves the intent to deceive for the purpose of personal gain. An old proverb says, "Half a fact is a whole lie."
- 29  **Where would be?**
- Bishop Warren A. Candler was preaching about the lies of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5), and asked the congregation, "If God still struck people dead for lying, where would I be?"
 - The congregation snickered a bit.
 - But the smiles disappeared when the Bishop shouted, "I'd be right here—*preaching to an empty church!*"
- 30  **You are new so be renewed**
- "You have put on the new (νέος) man"
 - "...which is renewed (ἀνακαινῶ) in knowledge after the image of him that created him.
 - You become NEW (νέος) once and for all when you receive Christ. You experienced a

change in birth

– As a consequence of that, you are being renewed (ἀνακαινῶω). You are experiencing a change in nature—becoming more like Christ.

31  **How am I renewed?**

- Through knowledge
 - Key idea of the Gnostics – but they wanted some mystical / philosophical knowledge
 - Paul says spiritual renewal comes from a deep intimate knowledge (ἐπίγνωσις) of Christ derived from communion with Him. The more we spend time with Him, the more we become like Him. (Phil 3:10)

32  **Watch your FORM!**

- We were FORMED in God's image at creation.
- We were DEFORMED from God's image by sin.
- But through Jesus Christ, we can be TRANSFORMED into God's image!

33  **The transformation**

- God's purpose for us is that we be "*conformed to the image of His Son*" (Rom. 8:29).
 - This refers to character, the spiritual quality of the inner man.
 - When we see Jesus Christ, we shall be like Him and have glorified bodies (1 John 3:1–3).
 - But while we are waiting for Him to return, we can become like Him and share His holy image.

34  **Quit focusing on human distinctions**

- In Jesus Christ, all human distinctions disappear (3:11).
 - Nationalities ("neither Greek nor Jew")
 - Former religious differences ("circumcision nor uncircumcision").
 - Cultural differences in Christ ("barbarian, Scythian").
 - Economic or political status ("bond or free")
 - Gender (Galatians 3:28 – "neither male nor female,")

35  **Action items**

- Have you ever completely dedicated your life to Christ and asked Him to take control?
 - Something beyond receiving Christ as Savior
- Will you commit today to neglect the urges to sin instead of feeding those wrong desires?
- Will you mortify your old man – through confession and accountability?