

# Commanded to Kill?: Putting to Death My Sinful Self

## Colossians 3:5-7

<b>BGT</b>	<sup>5</sup> Νεκρώσατε οὖν τὰ μέλη τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, πορνείαν ἀκαθαρσίαν πάθος ἐπιθυμίαν κακὴν, καὶ τὴν πλεονεξίαν, ἥτις ἐστὶν εἰδωλολατρία, <sup>6</sup> δι' ἧς ἔρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ θεοῦ [ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας]. <sup>7</sup> ἐν οἷς καὶ ὑμεῖς περιεπατήσατέ ποτε, ὅτε ἐζήτε ἐν τούτοις·
<b>NKJ</b>	<sup>5</sup> Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Christ is supreme and His work is sufficient...

- External Standard Based Upon OT Diet and Days (2:16-17) – False Spirituality of **Legalism**
- External Standard Based Upon Individual Experience (2:18-19) – False Spirituality of **Experience**
- External Standard Based Upon Man-Made Rules (2:20-23) – False Spirituality of **Aceticism**

## I. Require Death of Your Members

### A. The Conditions

1. "Therefore" – since you already died (3:3) and are raised with Christ (3:1)
2. Since you are to set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth (3:2)
3. Since Christ's return sets everything in perspective (3:4)

### B. The Command

1. Put to death (Νεκρώσατε – nekrosate)
2. Expositor's Bible Commentary:

In principle the Colossians had, in becoming Christians, died with Christ (cf. 2:20; 3:3). Now they are charged to make this death to the old life real in everyday practice. As Caird puts it, "The old life is dead; they must let it die. The indicative of faith must be matched by the imperative of ethics" (p. 203). The verb *nekrosate*, meaning literally "to make dead," is very strong. It suggests that we are not simply to suppress or control evil acts and attitudes. We are to wipe them out, completely exterminate the old way of life. "Slay utterly" may express its force. The form of the verb (aorist imperative) makes clear that the action is to be undertaken decisively, with a sense of urgency.

### C. The Culprits – Your Members, the Ones upon the Earth

1. Each person has them
2. Each person needs to put them to death
3. These are the opposite of the "above things" that we are to be continually seeking (3:1)
4. These are the opposite of the "above things" that we are to be continually thinking (3:2)

## II. Review Your Members

### A. Immorality (πορνείαν – porneia – "fornication")

1. Definition – Any sexual intercourse outside of marriage – includes unmarried sex, adultery, prostitution, homosexuality, incest (marriage to someone divorced because of immorality? Matt 5:32; 19:9), etc.
2. Principles

**Purpose of One's Body** – Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. (1 Cor 6:13)

**Proper Response** – Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. (1 Cor 6:18)

**Proper Place for Intimacy** – Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. (1 Cor 7:2)

**Place of Origin** – Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness (Gal 5:19)

**Practice** – But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; (Eph 5:3)

**Pursuit and Priority of Holiness** – For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thes 4:3)

### B. Impurity (ἀκαθαρσίαν – akatharsian – "uncleanness")

1. Definition – worthless material, waste, decayed flesh, defilement, indecency
2. Expositor's Bible Commentary: "Impurity" (*akatharsia*), though sometimes used of physical impurity (Matt 23:27), here has a moral connotation. Including uncleanness in thought, word, and act, it has a wider reference than "sexual immorality" (*porneia*).
3. References

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Rom 1:24-25)

For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. (1 Thes 4:7)

### C. **Impulses** (πάθος – pathos – “passion”)

1. Definition – uncontrolled passion, craving; ungovernable desire (opposite: self-control)
2. References – used only here, and in Romans 1:26 (see 1:18-32) and 1 Thes 4:5 (see 1 Thes 4:1-8)

### D. **Ideals** (ἐπιθυμίαν κακήν – epithumian kaken – “desires evil”) or inclinations?

1. Definition – desire, longing, lust, craving; to strongly desire to engage in an activity which is morally wrong.
2. References

**Matt 15:19** For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

**Mark 4:19** and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

**Rom 1:24** Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves

**Rom 6:12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

**Rom 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to [fulfill its] lusts.

**Gal 5:16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

**Gal 5:24** And those [who are] Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**2 Tim 2:22** Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

**Titus 2:12** teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age

**James 1:14-15** But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

**1 Pet 2:11** Beloved, I beg [you] as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

**1 John 2:16** For all that [is] in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world.

### E. **Idolatry** (πλεονεξίαν – pleonexian – “covetousness”; εἰδωλολατρία – eidololatria – “idolatry”)

1. Definition – greediness; insatiableness “a strong desire to acquire more and more material possessions or to possess more things than other people have, all irrespective of need” (L-N) – (opposite – contentment?)
2. References

**1 Tim 6:9-10** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds* of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

## III. **Realize God’s Certain Wrath Upon Sin**

### A. **Because of these very practices the wrath of God is continually upon those who do them**

**Rom 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness

**Eph 5:6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

### B. **Sin is extremely serious to God, and thus it should be to us**

### C. **Sin is never acceptable to God, and is always the basis for His wrath**

## IV. **Recall Your Past and Your Present**

### A. **Our past was the same – We once walked by means of these “members”**

**1 Pet 1:14** as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

**1 Pet 4:3** For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles -- when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

### B. **Our present is different! – We have been liberated by our Savior – Walk as liberated ones!**

**2 Pet 1:4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

**Rom 1:18-32** <sup>18</sup> ¶ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man -- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> ¶ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. <sup>26</sup> ¶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. <sup>28</sup> ¶ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

**Eph 5:1-14** Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. <sup>3</sup> But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; <sup>4</sup> neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. <sup>5</sup> For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partakers with them. <sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), <sup>10</sup> finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. <sup>13</sup> But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. <sup>14</sup> Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."