

addictive and very destructive.

- 4) Why does God call covetousness idolatry? "**Covetousness is idolatry, because it seeks fulfilment in something that God has not given us or that He has forbidden. Those things become idols of the heart.**"

### 3. The Reason (v.6-7)

#### a. Such sins bring down God's wrath (v.6)

- 1) Paul reminds us that God will pour out His wrath on the children of disobedience who do such sins.
- 2) I believe this describes unbelievers for the word "*disobedience*" refers to those who refuse to believe and obey God.
- 3) However, if these sins bring down God's wrath on unbelievers, we can be sure that he will not ignore it if one of his children does them. God always chastens His children when the sin (Heb 12:5-8).
- 4) Any person who claims to be a Christian yet continually lives in one of these sins must examine his salvation, (2Co 13:5).

#### b. You formerly lived in them, but no longer (v.7)

- 1) The words "*some time*" in this verse literally mean formerly or at a time in the past.
- 2) In those unsaved days, they continually lived in them. It was their way of life. That was in the past. It is no longer to be true of a Christian. We are to mortify that lifestyle.

**Conclusion:** This evening we have learned that God commands us to mortify or put to death our sinful members. If you are still yielding to any of these sinful activities, then you are not seeking those things which are above and walking in the Spirit; instead you are grieving the Holy Spirit. You are experiencing God's chastening in your life. You will only find relief when you put those sins to death. STOP yielding to sin! If you are doing any of these and God is not chastening you, you may not be saved (Heb 5:8). That is very serious!

**Song:** Yield Not to Temptation - 364

# Put Sin to Death

29 January 2017 PM - Colossians 3:5-7 - Col16 - Scott Childs

**Introduction:** When weeds grow in my garden I have basically three options. I can ignore them. I can cut them off. Or I can pull them out by the roots. The third option is the only one that will get rid of them.

Sin is like weeds. It comes up without being planted. It multiplies rapidly if ignored. If watered it grows even faster. The only way to get rid of sin is to pull it out by the roots and put it to death.

**Transition:** In our section this evening, God gives us a command. We are going to examine the command, the sins related to the command, and the reason for the command.

## 1. The Command

### a. Mortify (v.5)

- 1) This old English word means to put to death.
- 2) Notice how parallel passages describe the same thing.
  - a) (Romans 6:6) "*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*"
  - b) (Romans 6:11) "*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"
  - c) (Romans 6:12) "*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*"
  - d) (Romans 8:13) "*For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*"
  - e) (Galatians 5:24) "*And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*"
  - f) (Ephesians 4:22) "*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*"
  - g) (Ephesians 5:3) "*But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;*"
- 3) The Lord died for our sins. He broke sin's chains and set us

free. Now we must treat sin as dead. We must stand up to temptations and say an emphatic **"NO!"** Kill those filthy lusts and pull them out by the root.

### b. Your members which are upon the earth

- 1) "*Upon the earth*" tells us that Paul is contrasting this with the life we will have above with Christ, Col 3:1.
- 2) The *members* of our body (i.e., our mind, eyes, ears, mouth, hands, and feet) are still lured by the old sin nature that still lives in us.
- 3) The following sins are called "*our members*" because they appeal to our earthly body members. (James 1:14) "*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*" (James 1:15) "*Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*"

## 2. The Sins (v.5)

### a. Fornication

- 1) This refers to sexual sins, particularly before marriage.
- 2) The word can also broadly refer to all sexual sins.

### b. Uncleaness

- 1) This word refers to any sort of impure living.
- 2) It includes lustful thoughts, a dirty mind, looking at bad pictures, reading impure novels, watching impure movies, etc.
- 3) We find the same word in (Romans 6:19) "*I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to **uncleaness** and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*" (1 Thessalonians 4:7) "*For God hath not called us unto **uncleaness**, but unto holiness.*"

### c. Inordinate affection

- 1) This word refers to depraved passions. These include passions and desires that go against our very nature.
- 2) The word describes homosexuality in (Romans 1:26) "*For this cause God gave them up unto vile **affections**: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is*

*against nature:*"

- 3) It is translated "*lusts*" in (1 Thessalonians 4:5) "*Not in the **lust of concupiscence**, even as the Gentiles which know not God:*"

### d. Evil concupiscence

- 1) This translates two Greek words. "Evil" refers to anything that is bad natured, base or wicked.
- 2) "Concupiscence" may be any craving, longing or desire for what is forbidden.
- 3) Together these words describe any desire or craving for that which is bad or evil. This includes wanting intimate affection from one who is not your spouse.
- 4) Concupiscence is often translated "lust". (Romans 13:14) "*But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the **lusts** thereof.*" (Galatians 5:16) "*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the **lust** of the flesh.*"

### e. Covetousness, which is idolatry

- 1) Covetousness is a greedy desire to have more.
- 2) It is interesting that in Scripture, this word is often included in lists of sensual sins.
  - a) (Ephesians 4:19) "*Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleaness with **greediness**.*"
  - b) (Ephesians 5:3) "*But fornication, and all uncleaness, or **covetousness**, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;*"
  - c) (Ephesians 5:5) "*For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor **covetous** man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*"
  - d) (2 Peter 2:14) "*Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with **covetous practices**; cursed children:*"
- 3) One of the most common sins of our day with a greedy desire for more is the sin of pornography. It is extremely