

“A Necessary Death”

Colossians 3:5-8 (page 984 in pew Bible)

Question: “Why does this topic show up so often in the Bible?”

I. The *message*: “Put to death...” Colossians 3:5

Sexual immorality
Impurity
Passion
Evil desire

“Abstain from *sinful desires*, which wage war against your soul.” **I Peter 2:11**

Not all desires are sinful; but some are!

II. The *means*: “How do I do it (“put to death”... “wage war”)?

A. Pray – for God’s help!

“If *by the Spirit* you are putting to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.”
Romans 8:13

B. Memorize key Scriptures

Psalms 119:11 “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

Ephesians 6:17 “The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

C. Enlist other Christians

Hebrews 10:24-25 “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together.”

D. Ruthlessly eliminate anything that fuels your evil desires

Romans 13:14 “Do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”

Proverbs 7:8 “He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house.”

Matthew 5:29 “If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”

And... a word to the women...

Proverbs 7:10 “A woman (came out) to meet him, dressed like a prostitute.”

Proverbs 23:28 “She lies in wait and multiplies the unfaithful among men.”

III. The *motivation*: “Why should I make the effort?”

A. The damage to your relationship with others (present/future spouse)

B. The damage to your relationship with God

- 1. You grieve and quench the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30, I Thessal. 5:19)**
- 2. Your “view” of God is obscured (Matthew 5:8)**
- 3. You risk God’s discipline (Hebrews 12:6)**
- 4. You damage your own assurance of salvation (I John 2:3)**

C. This kind of sinning is almost always accompanied by guilt, shame, lies and deceit.

D. Fear of the Law of Diminishing Returns

E. To be the person you want to be (who are your spiritual heroes?)

IV. Final encouragements:

“Resolved: Never to give over, nor in the least to slacken, my fight with my corruptions, however unsuccessful I may be.” Jonathan Edwards

Philippians 1:6 “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

John 6:37 “Whoever comes to Me I will never drive away.”