

The Spirit of Christ In Us (*Pt. 4*)

Romans 8:5-13

II. God has changed & empowered us by His Spirit (5-13).

A. Believers are radically different from unbelievers (5-8).

B. Believers were fundamentally changed by the Spirit (9-11).

C. Believers are practically empowered by the indwelling Spirit (12-13).

1. We are obligated to the Spirit unto obedience (12-13)

2. We are empowered by the Spirit for obedience (13b)

- The Duty – “If...you are putting to death the deeds of the body.”
- The Power – “By the Spirit”
- The Promise – “You will live.”

Putting Sin to Death (Rom. 8:13)

I. The Meaning of Mortification

A. The Terms

- Mortification: the process of putting the sins of our old man to death.
- Vivification: the process of putting on Christ and those virtues that make us like Him.

B. A Definition (Owen)

- A constant fighting and contending against sin.
- A frequent success against a lust or sin.
- A habitual weakening of sin.

II. The Means of Mortification

A. The Wrong Means

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1. The OT ceremonial law (Col. 2:16-17)
2. Man-made rules/legalism (Col. 2:20-22; Gal. 3:3)
3. Asceticism (Col. 2:23)
4. Monasticism/Isolationism (John 17:15)
5. A secret method or formula
6. Sudden spiritual crisis
7. Solely prayer
8. A charismatic experience
9. Self-Reformation or behavior modification
10. Spiritual osmosis

Putting Sin to Death (Rom. 8:13)

I. The Meaning of Mortification

A. The Terms

- Mortification is the process by which we put the sins of our old man to death.
- Vivification is the process by which we put on Christ and those virtues that make us like Him.

B. A Definition (Owen)

- A constant fighting and contending against sin.
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II. The Means of Mortification

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B. The Biblical Means

B. The Biblical Means: How to Put Sin to Death

1. Live by faith in Christ (Gal. 2:20).

- Believe that the benefits of Christ's death are for you (8:1-4).
- Believe that the Spirit has made you a new person in Christ (8:5-8).
- Believe that Christ will finish His plan for you (8:9-11; Eph. 5:25-27; Titus 2:14).
- Contemplate Christ's person with the eye of faith (2 Cor. 3:18).

2. Learn, meditate on, and apply the Word (Jn. 17:17).

B. The Biblical Means: How to Put Sin to Death

3. Expend maximum effort to pursue obedience, by putting off old patterns & putting on new patterns (Phil 2:12-13).
 - Deal with all sin and not one sin (Col. 3:5-11).
 - Identify sin for what it is, using biblical labels (Col. 3:5ff).
 - Understand the true evil of sin (Col. 3:6-7).
 - Act to kill the sin (Col. 3:5).
 - Act to put on Christ's virtues (Col. 3:12-17).
4. Depend completely on Christ and His Spirit to enable you to pursue obedience and to produce real change (8:13b; Jn. 15:5).
5. Pray for sanctification (Mt. 6:13; 1 Th. 5:23).