

# “Slaying Sin”

## Introduction

- Continue series, “Holy Cow, Living for God in an ungodly culture”
  - Acknowledge it’s challenging Living for God in today’s world; competing priorities; culture defining what is acceptable and what one needs to be ‘successful’
- Where have we been?
  - Holy Living is the ability to “love one another deeply, from the heart”
  - We have explored how holiness looks in our individual lives, in community and relationship with one another
- Today= Continue to look at this idea of “loving one another deeply, from the heart” and how getting the gospel in us and sharing in Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection is the key to holiness.

**Tension: Being holy is an inward change made possible by the grace of God. Sin management is not holiness. Real question, is how does holiness keep sin from reigning in our lives...we do the things and say the things and watch the things we know we shouldn’t, and we do not do the things we know we should do, and whenever that happens, we feel guilty. We hear about how our faith should make things different, but how? Are you with me?**

## 1 Peter 4:1-6

- **If died, free from sin - we have shared in the - those who we were dead in sin, raised with Christ**
  - Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
    - ‘Crucified with Christ’ in the flesh - share in his crucifixion, share in his resurrection; in Christ’s death, we are set free from sin
  - The Gospel! It changes everything (Shazam), including our behaviors and what we do with our body
- Discipleship; holiness; the on-going primary goal for the rest of our lives after we’re saved
  - Following Jesus
  - Taking up our cross daily and following him (Luke 9:23)
  - Requires death
    - Death to desires, death to our own will, death to things that aren’t holy
- Seemingly Extreme examples here, but would seem like the desires of the flesh today are just as strong as they were 2000 years ago - no reason to think that’s any different
- Detectable difference between life before Christ as Lord and Leader and Life after Christ
  - Brian Head Welch- Former guitarist Korn
  - If no difference= are you really saved?
  - Look at the list of “before” and “after” here
    - Before= Verse 3
    - After= “Live as the spirit of God does” (v.6)
      - Basically not any of that in v. 3
  - So successful at slaying sin, huge notable difference

## 1 Peter 4:7-11

- V. 7 “the end of all things is near”
  - urgency - 2nd coming/death
- 1 Peter 4:7 NRSV The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.
  - “Discipline yourself for the sake of your prayers”
  - out of sense of affection and love;
  - consecration/holiness affects our prayers -
  - Last week= spiritual consequences to earthly actions
    - Forgiveness is free, trust is earned
    - If God can’t trust you with something, he’ll find someone He can trust, and you’ll miss out on your blessing
- V.10 Using God’s gifts [calling/giftedness]
  - Spiritual Gifts

- Gifts of the Spirit as well
- V. 11 If any speaks (when you speak) you are God's mouthpiece,
  - especially with gifts of prophecy (divine utterances) -
  - what's coming out of your mouth? Holy Speech is to be different from the worldly speech, emphasizing the fact that things like gossip, slander,
- Move from unholy to holy through dying and rising with Christ -
  - Sounds churchy and isn't real tangible?
  - how do we do that in a way that makes a difference?
  - Remember, for Christ, it came down to a decision= Decision to die for our sins, it was his choice and the Bible tells us he laid down his life, willingly gave it up, he made that choice
  - We all have the Decision to let Christ have reign over our lives, or not, but on our own power, we'll never be able to live out a positive decision; God's grace is what makes it possible (grace is a big deal)
    - Ask / Receive
    - Daily Decision to crucify whatever is rising up in you that - and let Christ have rule and reign over it; taking up your cross daily - in order to pick up the Cross, you gotta put everything else down...what enables to put everything down, is grace conveyed through the Holy Spirit - grace is the most valuable thing...guy selling everything to buy the field...
  - After we are dead to sin/with Christ we are raised
    - Resurrection power ultimately enables us to live lives of holiness - God enabling us to live this holy life...makes no sense that we can conquer sin, and the world can't (can't try hard enough) - God is the change-agent
  - For us it's an internal thing and daily choice/decision - inward change leads to external decisions/behavior
    - Inward change= work of the Holy Spirit
    - Leads to outward decisions/behavior
    - Change from inside out, because of the inward change we do things differently, not change our behavior in an effort to change our heart
- Take Peter's Example here in 4:3- lust
  - sexual desire is a gift from the Lord (for procreation and intimacy reasons);
  - when not submitted to the Lord, it becomes twisted and temptation, whether it's on a screen or someone outside of marriage relationship, leads to 'sin' - missing the mark of what God has in mind, and death of relationship, guilt, shame...
  - James 1:14-15 NIV But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.
- Most important time period is the time when desire arises and temptation begins - after that, it's all down hill - it's in those first 5 seconds, a grace-empowered decision to embrace holiness and slay sin must happen
  - '5 second rule', not as it relates to dropping food on the floor, '5 seconds to SLAY sin';
    - [neuroscience - brain has 5 seconds to make that decision
    - "5 second window - have to crucify it within those 5 seconds - food (sweets); anger; lust (entering search into browser); impulse buys, slander
  - Battle language is more than appropriate considering the wages of sin is death, and given the spiritual forces at work in the world to pluck us from relationship with God (sword!)
  - Daily decision to crucify those things that aren't holy
    - Lust - earthly reality; holiness - like Christ - lust is crucified
    - Spiritual reality becomes our natural / physical reality - overcoming; living out spiritual reality; transformation
    - Spiritual self Conquers the natural self
    - Netflix example

## Closing

- How do you feel different?
  - Take an inventory, If no difference (flesh and conduct), have you really died with Christ??
- Surrendering each part - search me - how can I put it on the altar in surrender to you...
- You've been bought with a price; we don't belong to ourselves; bodies, mind, spirit, will, spirit