

The Wrong Means for Putting Sin to Death

1. Man-made rules (legalism)
2. A secret method or formula
3. A sudden spiritual crisis
4. Prayer alone
5. A charismatic experience
6. Self-Reformation or behavior modification
7. Spiritual osmosis

Putting Sin to Death

Romans 8:13

- I. Live by faith in Christ (Gal. 2:20)
 - A. Believe that the benefits of Christ's death are for you (Rom. 8:1-4).
 - B. Believe that the Spirit made you a new person in Christ (Rom. 8:5-8).
 - C. Believe that Christ can and will finish His plan for you (Rom. 8:9-11; Eph. 5:25-27; Titus 2:14).

John Owen

"I am a poor, weak creature; unstable as water, I cannot excel. This corruption is too hard for me and is at the very door of ruining my soul.... I have made promises and broken them.... Many persuasions have I had that I had got the victory and should be delivered, but I am deceived; so that I plainly see, that without some imminent...assistance, I am lost.... Behold, the Lord Christ, that has all fullness of grace in his heart, all fullness of power in his hand, he is able to slay all these his enemies. There is sufficient provision in him for my relief and assistance. He can take my drooping, dying soul and make me more than a conqueror."

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 - D. Contemplate Christ's person with the eye of faith (2 Cor. 3:18).

Biblical Doctrine

“When the believer apprehends the glory of Christ with the eyes of faith, the sight of his beauty satisfies his soul in such a way that he does not go on seeking satisfaction in the false and fleeting pleasures of sin.... The spiritual apprehension of Christ’s glory conforms believers’ affections to the divine will, causing them to hate sin and love righteousness. Then, sanctified affections direct the will in such a way that it desires the righteousness it has come to love and repudiates the sin it has come to hate. Finally, the internal transformation is brought to fruition externally, as the sanctified will issues in holy living.”

Putting Sin to Death

Romans 8:13

- I. Live by faith in Christ (Gal. 2:20)
- II. Learn, meditate on, and apply the Word (Rom. 8:5; Jn. 17:17; Eph. 4:22-23).
- III. Expend maximum effort in pursuit of obedience, by putting off old patterns and putting on new patterns (Eph. 4:20-24; Phil. 2:12-13).

Practical Insights on Putting Off & Putting On (Col. 3)

1. Deal with all sin and not one sin (Col. 3:8).

John Owen

“A man finds [a] lust...[that] is powerful, strong..., leads captive, vexes, disquiets, takes away peace; he is not able to bear it; wherefore he sets himself against it, prays against it, groans under it, sighs to be delivered: but in the meantime, ...in reading, prayer, and meditation...he is loose and negligent. Let not that man think that ever he shall arrive to the mortification of the lust he is perplexed with. Do you think [God] will ease you of that which perplexes you that you may be at liberty to do that which no less grieves him? No. God says, “Here is one, if he could be rid of this lust I should never hear of him more; let him wrestle with this, or he is lost.” Let not any man think to do his own work that will not do God’s. God’s work consists in universal obedience.”

Practical Insights on Putting Off & Putting On (Col. 3)

1. Deal with all sin and not one sin (Col. 3:8).
2. Deal not solely with behavior but with the root sins in your thoughts, desires, and affections (Col. 3:5, 8).
3. Use biblical labels for your sin (Col. 3:5, 8-9).
4. Grasp the true evil of sin (Col. 3:6).
5. Act to kill the sin (Col. 3:5; **marginal note**).
6. Act to put on Christ's virtues (Col. 3:10, 12-14).

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- III. Expend maximum effort in pursuit of obedience, by putting off old patterns and putting on new patterns (Eph. 4:20-24; Phil. 2:12-13).
- IV. Depend completely on Christ and His Spirit to enable you to pursue obedience and to produce real change (Rom. 8:13; Jn. 15:5).
- V. Pray for sanctification (Mt. 6:13; Jn. 17:17; 1 Th. 5:23).