

Morning Sermon October 18, 2015

“Killing Sin” Romans 8:13

but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Romans 8:13 NKJ)

I. Name it properly –

1. It is called sin / the deeds of the body are sin ---

“The deeds of the body” are those practices characteristic of the body of sin (*cf.* 6:6), practices which the believer must put to death if he is to live (*cf.* Col. 3:5). John Murray

⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (Romans 6:6 NKJ)

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, (Colossians 3:5-6 NKJ)

ἁμαρτία hamartia {ham-ar-tee'-ah} Meaning to miss the mark, to err, be mistaken, to wander from the path of uprightness and honor, to do or go wrong, to wander from God's law, to violate God's law. Also sin is 2) that which is done wrong, sin, an offence, a violation of the divine law in thought or in act 3) collectively, the complex or aggregate of sins committed either by a single person or by many

Sin is called sin -

⁸ But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. (Romans 7:8 NKJ) / sin revived and I died. (Romans 7:9 NKJ) / ... ¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. (Romans 7:11 NKJ)

the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:10 NKJ)

2. It is called evil – ↓

κακός kakos {kak-os'} **Meaning:** 1) of a bad nature 1a) not such as it ought to be 2) of a mode of thinking, feeling, acting 2a) base, wrong, wicked 3) troublesome, injurious, pernicious, destructive, baneful

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. (Romans 7:21 NKJ)

3. It is called a law – ↖ It is the Law of depravity -

“And for this reason doth the apostle here call indwelling sin a law. It is a powerful and effectual indwelling principle, inclining and pressing unto actions agreeable and suitable unto its own nature.”

John Owen

II. Beware of misnaming it –

Sins are called missteps, peccadillos, little, “having fun”

Worse yet, specific sins are renamed to make them seem less sinful:

1. Homosexuality, sodomy is called “being gay” which used to mean happy, the entirety of sexual perversion is decorated with a rainbow!
2. Baby killing is called “abortion” and more recently “contraception” and “women’s healthcare”
3. This is also dangerous with so called “little” sins –
 - A. Can a fellowship meal involve gluttony?
 - B. Can a prayer-request be disguised gossip?

Why is misnaming sin a serious problem?

Because if you misname something, do not properly identify it, you will not properly respond to it! For instance, I heard the phrase “boys will be boys” used this week in reference to 3 or 4 young men gang raping a twelve year old girl. Now, if you are taken in by the phrase “boys will be boys” you will be tempted to think these are just some decent young men having fun, no harm. But if you understand what happened accurately, the poor girl was raped, these men committed a crime. They deserve to be punished.

Mis-naming sin is like calling “cancer” a cold. If you misdiagnose and MIS-CALL a disease you will not treat it in the same way. The same applies to sin –

²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (Isaiah 5:20 NKJ)

III. *Depend upon the Spirit to help you put to death the deeds of the body –*

but if **by the Spirit you** put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Romans 8:13 NKJ)

1. *Mis-naming is just one of many problems we have when we attempt to rightly deal with sin, by killing it, we also:*

A. *Underestimate it, its power – it has power to kill Romans 7:11 and it kills by the very LAW most people think they kill sin with! Sin is hard to kill, impossible to totally eradicate in this life. Even with the Holy Spirit's help –*

The struggle against our sin, even with the Spirit's help was not easy even for our sinless Savior –

⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:42-44 NKJ)

We should not expect it to be easy ourselves –

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. (Hebrews 12:3-4 NKJ)

B. *Like it, more than we should –*

⁴⁰ Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber. (John 18:40 NKJ)

Pilate gave the people a choice, who would they release from crucifixion? Who would they spare? When they said "Not this Man" – they were referring to Jesus, they did not want free Him. Who would the free – bar abbas ... Son of his daddy? Or Jesus?

Our sins are often so dear to our flesh they are like our little children, we like them too much to kill them!

C. *Are deceived by it –*

¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:13 NKJ)

D. *Are often discouraged by the long term nature of our struggle with it –*

⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. (Galatians 6:9 NKJ)

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become **weary** and **discouraged** in your souls.

⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. (Hebrews 12:3-4 NKJ)

2. *We need the Holy Spirit to help us, He will:*

A. *Convict of sin - ⁸ "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (John 16:8 NKJ)*

B. *He will give us resurrection energy against sin –*

¹⁰ And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:10-11 NKJ)

3. *So we need to pray fervently for His presence and power in our lives – Luke 11:9-13*

4. *We need the Word and the Spiritual power of it –*

¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You! (Psalm 119:11 NKJ)

⁶³ "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life. (John 6:63 NKJ)

IV. *Remember the reward – you will live. (Romans 8:13 NKJ)*

¹² **Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (James 1:12 NKJ)**

"Ye shall live, that is, enjoy the life of which the Spirit is the Author; including therefore holiness, happiness, and eternal glory."

Charles Hodge

Arnold A. Brevick