

Developed by Faith (alive faith!)

There are religious systems where your behavior supposedly will affect your destiny. Then there are systems where your behavior does not matter at all. (Humanism included.) **But as a Christian, we are delivered from our sinful nature, with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. (In Christ, we have the power to live a godly life, and it is the optimal way of life, and it is eternal!).**

So, there is something to declaring and living faith consistently.

Titus 1:15–16 (ESV)

¹⁵To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. ¹⁶They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

1. What is a relationship with Christ? (So much more than just having eternity secured)

3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- a.) **“Seek things above”** and **“set your mind on things above”**. (It is where we belong as a people in God’s Kingdom)
- b.) The blessing of heaven in our daily lives. (the breakthrough we all needed, that this church needs.)
- c.) The world cannot see Christ now, but they will in all His glory, and we will be our fully redeemed selves too.
- d.) There is a connection of the spiritually alive with Christ and His ways.
- e.) This is placing our minds where they belong.

3-4

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- f.) Died to sin- **Christ has broken the power of sin over us.**
- g.) But we are brought to life, and our subjected faith in Christ is how we live this life. (We will fully be able to without any resistance in heaven, but it does not mean we have to wait!
- h.) Hidden in Christ- There can be no snatching us away, we are fully hidden/protected.

Romans 6:1–2 (ESV)**Dead to Sin, Alive to God**

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

2. The faith steps in our relationship- (Things that we do to encourage relationships)**5-9**

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

A.) Paul gives us a tangible list- (this has to be more uncomfortable from a pulpit, but Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit covers it, so shall we.)

- Sexual immorality is certainly nothing new, but probably glamorized more than ever.

b.) **Pornography**- is not the reason for all of it, but it certainly is influencing our society significantly. Barna research- 40 million are regular visitors, 42 million sites, revenue stream is greater than the nfl, mlb, nba combined and more than nbc, cbs, and abc combined, 47% of American homes are having issues, it increases marital infidelity by 300%, 11 is the average age of first viewing it and by 14, 94% have seen it, 54% of divorces are attributed to it now, 70% of youth pastors have had to address it with youth, 68% of church going men view it, young Christian adults 74%, 33% of women 25 and under search it once a month, 87% of Christian women have viewed it, 55% of married men and 25% of married women once a month, 57% of pastors say it is the most damaging thing in their congregation.

Does anyone find this alarming?

- This used to be unacceptable in our society, and it is affecting how people are going **about their lives and even how they now see themselves as a human being!** (Can't imagine selling our very souls for this.)
 - It is a heart problem (The heart is desperately wicked- Jeremiah 17:9)
 - It has nurtured our society into **a brand new idol worship epidemic**
- c.) **Adultery and its wicked cousin fornication**- are not any different than other sexual sins btw!
- Like drugs or alcohol- supposed normal sexual sin is the gateway to what we call perverted behaviors. (Anything out of God's plan is perversion.)
 - We are now seeing terms like "dysphoria" to allow things like transgenderism and it is normalizing it. (We started with, fornication and adultery, then homosexuality and lesbianism, then transgenderism, and guess what is now the "new" thing being discussed for normality.)

d.) This is even being allowed in churches now, and you know why? (Churches will fail to be churches when this happens.) It will become a strange club at best.

- It is certainly something that we better consider the ultimate protection of our children, families and churches.

d. This movement will take lives hidden in Christ, to hidden in the pits of hell.

Romans 6:11 (ESV)

¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

e.) Paul says in vs 6-7 that God's wrath will come/ Lust is in the heart of mankind, and it cries to come out, **but we have died to that and are alive in Christ!**

f.) We are accused of old fashioned, or prudish- but these are items that bring on the downward spiral, it is idolatry, and it will enslave like the alcoholic or drug addict. **And we simply have power over it!**

g. anger, wrath, malice, and slander- These are sins that we almost excuse and have not been foreign to some Baptist business meetings!

Put off/Put on 10-11

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

- Like clothing- take off grave clothes and put on living! (We don't wait till heaven for this!)
- New/renewed- neos/kainos- ongoing
Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

John 8:31-32 (ESV)

The Truth Will Set You Free

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."