



Putting Sin to Death

1. The Cost of Sin

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Scripture truth:

There are two great truths we must understand if we wish to put sin to death in our lives: I am a great sinner. Christ is a greater Savior.

Ask yourself:

Do I see myself as generally sinless or sinful?

Take action:

Circle your answer to the question above.

Pause here to focus your heart and mind, not on the sins of society or the sins of others but on your own sin.

Prepare your heart in advance with a willingness to address your sin and a willingness to allow God to free you from it.

2. The Payment for Sin

Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness. And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. 1 John 3:4-5

Scripture truth:

Consider the two views of sin. Man's view is vastly different from God's view.

Man Calls it:

Accident
Defect
Error
Liberty
Trifle
Mistake
Weakness

God Calls it:

Abomination
Disease
Enmity
Lawlessness
Tragedy
Madness
Wickedness

Ask yourself:

In what ways have I downplayed sin?
For what sin have I failed to repent?
Do I consider sin in my life as big a deal as God does?

Take action:

Ask God to reveal your heart and your attitude about sin the way He sees it.
Choose now to surrender and repent as God leads.
Write a prayer of commitment here:

3. The Choice of Sin

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh...Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these... Galatians 5:16, 19-20

These six things the Lord hates; Indeed, seven are repulsive to Him: A proud look [the attitude that makes one overestimate oneself and discount others], a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that creates wicked plans, feet that run swiftly to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies [even half-truths] and one who spreads discord (rumors) among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19 AMP

Scripture truth:

Pride, a desire for more, and a sense of entitlement are so common in our culture as to be considered normal, but they're not. Our Lord despises them as sees them as abominations. For Christians, these are not optional attitudes or behaviors. They must go.

Ask yourself:

For which of these sins am I guilty?
___ Do I have lust in my heart? ("I want it.")
___ Do I have a sense of entitlement? ("I deserve it.")
___ Do I have a problem with pride? ("I can handle it."
Am I willing to remove them from my life?

Take action:

Once again, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any lust, entitlement, or pride in your life.
Put a check before anything He reveals.

4. The Confession of Sin

*The one who **practices** sin is of the devil...1 John 3:8*

*If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

Scripture truth:

To keep and continue in our sin (or “practice it”) is not an option for a disciple of Christ. The initial steps in overcoming our sin problem are to recognize and confess our sin to the only One who can cleanse us.

The word translated as “confess” means to “say the same as...” We don’t “say the same” as the world. Instead, we say the same thing about our sin as God does.

Ask yourself:

1. How quickly do I recognize and repent of my sin?
2. Do I see my sin as God sees it?

Take action:

1. Pause now to confess your sins. Be specific.
2. List the sins God brings to mind.
3. Agree with God’s opinion of your sin as a failure of righteousness and truly repent.

5. The Repentance of Sin

The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick. Who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9

Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3:19

Scripture truth:

Repentance involves more than being sorry you were caught. The critical element in repentance is to change one's mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins. Willingness to relinquish our sin is the vital part of repentance and is not optional.

Ask yourself:

Am I willing to relinquish my sin permanently? If not, why not?

Take Action:

As a symbol of your repentance, God’s forgiveness, and His cleansing, write the sin you’ve confessed on a small slip of the paper. Hold your paper over a sink and set fire to it with a match. Watch as it burns completely. Rinse the ashes down the drain. Thank God for removing your sin as far as the east is the west.

6. The Resistance Against Sin

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:1-11

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7

Scripture truth:

A sin-free life doesn't happen by accident. It happens by choice. So choose. Choose to resist sin. Choose to embrace righteousness.

Ask yourself:

Am I willing to resist sin, no matter how difficult the struggle?

Am I willing to be free of sin's hold on me?

Take action:

Make a commitment to live the rest of this day without sin.

When tempted, resist.

Commit to living an entire day without sin of omission, commission, thought or action.

Pray for God's strength to do as you've determined and begin afresh each day going forward.