

Alive! I'm Alive!
Colossians 3:5-17



IS JESUS ENOUGH

Theme: Depending upon the sufficiency of Jesus enables believers to live the life he intended us to live.

I. Living the life he intended requires that we give up the habituated acts and attitudes of our past. (3:5-11)

Read: vss. 5-17

Question: How do we know that a believer does not have an old nature?

Hint: Compare vs. 5 with vs. 9

A.

B.

Question: If believers still have an old nature what insurmountable problem would they face?

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Question: However, if what the Holy Spirit wants us to "put to death" is our flesh, our earthly members, the habits and memories of a former life, then what very real potential do we possess?

Read the passage again:

Question: What other sins could be added to this list?

Question: Are there some you need to deal with personally?

Application:

Consider now how this knowledge can boost your hope of spiritual victory. So long as you believe you are doomed to live with your sin, since, presumably, it is still your very nature to sin, then you will ultimately fulfill that belief. On the other hand, when you come to grips with the distinction between verses 5 and 9, you suddenly realize, "Hey, wait a minute. Just hold on there now. I'm no longer dead in my transgressions. I'm no longer that person I once was. That old man is dead already. Besides, I couldn't kill him no matter how hard I tried. Only God could do that. And so he did when Jesus gave his life for mine. The only thing left of him are memories and habits. Now that's hardly the same thing as a nature,,the very essence of who I am. No, I am a new person in Christ. I am now a spiritual creature. I have been re-created to receive the very life and love of God, to respond to him with thanksgiving, and to display his glory through my earthly body."

So now when the old memories and habits come filtering in you can meet them with the mindset of a champion, not the mindset of a sinner. You can look to your coach, your trainer, your support team, and your energy producer—God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and say, "I need you right now." Not only will they assist, they will come brace you on both sides, they will set the pace in front, they will cheer you from behind, they will carry you from beneath, and they will guard and cover you from above. They will never leave you. They will never forsake you. You just need to remember to call on them all the time. Don't make sporadic, meaningless empty calls once or twice a day (a week?). Keep the communication going. Be consistent. Remain mindful of the Lord all the time. Build your intimacy with him. Give him thanks all day long. Cultivate the ability to talk with God even as you talk with others or attend to other details. Your fellowship with him will then prosper. You will then begin to see the Holy Spirit leading you as you see sin decrease and holiness increase, as you allow the Holy Spirit to pray for you when you come to the end of yourself, as you begin to let feelings of condemnation fade away, and as you begin to build a heavenly hope that stands between you and the despair of earth's daily grind.

II. Living the life he intended requires that we habituate the acts and attitudes of his promise.

Read: vss. 12 through 17

Question: Can you list all the qualities of the new man in Christ from this passage? Three are assumed of every believer and are found in the first part of verse 12. Fifteen are expected to become the habits of ever believer and are found in the rest of verse 12 and on down through verse 17.

Assumed (vs. 12)

- A.
- B.
- C.

Expected (rest of verse 12 through verse 17)

- D.
- E.
- F.
- G.
- H.
- I.
- J.
- K.
- L.
- M.
- N.
- O.
- P.
- Q.
- R.

Question: How can you cultivate all of these (and so much more of the character of Jesus Christ) so they begin to flow from you as easily as healthy breathing?

Hint: Re-read the conclusion to the last section.

Application:

What difference will all of this make in your life?

Do you have someone with whom you can form a mutual prayer and support team to help one another get better at living in the presence of God all day, all week, all month, all year? Who is it? Will you form the team?

If not? Do you feel comfortable asking your group for assistance? Who else might you turn to for assistance? Will you do it?

Once you form your team, what will you do for one another? How often will you check in with one another? Could you use modern technology to help your team along? How about texting? How about Twitter? If you manage your own daily schedule, how often can you slip in a two minute phone call?

Come on now, get creative. Any relationship requires pro-activity from its members. Your relationship with another believer requires it. And so does your relationship with God.