

“Put to Death What is Earthly in You”

Sermon Notes

➤ **An ongoing war is being waged within every Christian between the child of Adam that we once were, and the child of God that we now are. This war is waged on three fronts.**

1. The first front is the battleground of the temperament (heart) (5-7).

2. The second front is the battleground of the tongue (8-9).

3. The third front is the battleground of the thoughts (10-11).

MEFC Community Group Study Questions

For the week of February 6th-12th

Getting Started

1. On Sunday, January 30th Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti posed for a photograph with Earvin “Magic” Johnson and California Governor Gavin Newsom while attending the 2022 NFC Championship football game (Rams vs. 49ers) at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, CA. You can see that all the men are enjoying themselves from the big smiles on their faces. Unfortunately those smiles shouldn't have been in evidence because Los Angeles County has a mask mandate requiring masks for outdoor “mega events” hosting over 5000 people, and SoFi Stadium has a requirement (in adherence to the local health regulations) requiring the wearing of masks at all times except when eating or drinking (there is no food or drink in evidence in the photograph). Governor Newsom explained that this was “only for a few moments” while Mayor Garcetti claimed that everything was all right because he was “holding his breath.” What is the source of this readiness to make excuses for, find extenuating circumstances, and minimize our guilt for our own transgressions? (see Heb 3:13)

Digging Deeper

2. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone (Eph 2:8-9). Why then, do we need to strive so hard to mortify our sin, if all is forgiven through the death of Christ? (see Jas 2:17-20; 1 Jn 1:6, 3:3)

Open Your Bible to Colossians 3:5-11.

3. In verse 5, Paul talks about putting to death what is earthly in you (the literal Greek reading is “your members which are on the earth”). This is reminiscent of Christ's words in Matt 5:29-30. How is it possible to mortify a part of yourself? (see Col 3:3) Is this possible for unbelievers?
4. Paul lists five sins in verse 5. Do you see anything that these particular sins have in common? (See Rom 1:24-25) Do any of these sins seem to be different from the others in some way? If so, why was that sin included in the list?
5. In verses 6-7 Paul warns his listeners that they once walked in these sins and were living in them. In verse 5 he had urged them to put them to death, so presumably the sins were still living in them. What is the difference between living in a sin and the sin living in you?

6. In verses 8-9, Paul lists six other sins. How are the sins in this second list different from the sins in the first list? He speaks of putting these sins away and putting off the old self, as if these were a set of unsuitable clothing. How do these compare with the linen cloths with which Jesus was buried (John 20:5-7) or the cloth and linen strips that covered the body of Lazarus (Jn 11:44).
7. In verse 11, Paul suggests that the new self that is to be put on gives us a new image and a new identity. Given that the image of the old self corresponded to the practices which Paul has just listed, what do you think that this implies about the practices of the new image? (Paul will make this more clear in the following verses).
8. Given Paul's admonition to put to death what is earthly in you in these verses, what do you think is present in your own life right now that needs most urgently to change?