

# A Living Response to the Glorious Foundation

Buster Brown, February 18, 2018

*"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 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."* **Colossians 3:5-11**

The response to the gospel foundation and the hope of heaven is the pursuit of Christ which involves "putting to death what is earthly in you" and the "putting on the new self which is been renewed in knowledge".



→ Colossians 1:12-14, 15-20, 21-22, 27, 2:2b-3, 13-14, 17,  
→ 3:1-4

*"When a man fights against his sin only with arguments from the punishment he will receive, this is a sign that sin has taken great possession of his will, and that in the heart there is a superfluity of naughtiness. If a man opposes sin and lust from fear of shame among men or hell from God, he is sufficiently resolved to do the sin if there were no punishment attending it...those who are Christ's, and are acted in their obedience upon the gospel principles, have the death of Christ, the love of God, the detestable nature of sin, the preciousness of communion with God, a deep-grounded abhorrency of sin as sin, to oppose sin."* **On the Mortification of Sin, from the Collected Works of John Owen, volume 6, pg. 47**

\*"Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you..."

*"The choicest believers, who are assuredly freed from the condemning power of sin, ought yet to make it their business all their days to mortify the indwelling power of sin...there is not a day but sin foils or is foiled, prevails or is prevailed on; and it will be so while we live in this world."*

**On the Mortification of Sin, from the Collected Works of John Owen, volume 6, pg. 7 and 11**

*"Not to be daily employing the Spirit and the new nature for the putting to death the sin, is to neglect that excellent source/power which God has given us against our greatest enemy. If we neglect to make use of what we have received, God may justly hold his hand from giving us more. His graces, as well as his gifts, are bestowed on us to use, exercise, and trade with. Not to be daily mortifying sin (putting sin to death), is to sin against the goodness, kindness, wisdom, grace, and love of God."* **On the Mortification of Sin, from the Collected Works of John Owen, volume 6, pg. 13, Collected Works**

*"This sanctification (growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ) is throughout, the whole man; yet it is imperfect in this life; there abides still some remnants of corruption in every part; from which arises a continual and irreconcilable war; the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh)"* Galatians 5:17."

**Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 13, Article 2**

*"So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness."* **Romans 6:11-13**

*"When we love God supremely and fully, we are able to integrate our joy in God and our joy in his gifts, receiving the gifts as shafts of his glory. Supreme love for God orients our affections and orders our desires and integrates our loves. When we love God supremely, we are free to love creation as creation (and not as God). Because the divine excellence is really*

*present in the gift, we are free to enjoy it for his sake. God's gifts become avenues for enjoying him, beams of glory that we chase back to the source. We don't set God and his gifts in opposition to each other as though they were rivals. Instead in the words of Charles Simeon, we "enjoy God in everything and everything in God." The Things of Earth, pg. 99, Rigney*

*"Stand with Him, and you shall stand fast. Rest in Him, and you shall be at rest...the good that you love is from Him; but it is good and pleasant through reference to Him, and it shall become bitter if anything is loved which is from Him, but He is forsaken in it." Confessions of Augustine 4-18*

*\*"On account of these the wrath of God is coming."*

God's wrath is a settled opposition and hatred of evil.

\*What happens when a Christian sins?

1. Our legal standing before God is unchanged. Our justification cannot be shaken but our joy and usefulness can be diminished. (Romans 8:1)
2. Our fellowship with God is disrupted and our Christian life is damaged "sin untunes and unframes the heart itself, by entangling its affections." John Owen, pg. 22 (Romans 12:6, Revelation 3:19)

*"As sin weakens, so it darkens the soul. It is a cloud, a thick cloud, that spreads itself over the face of the soul, and intercepts all the beams of God's love and favour. It takes away all sense of the privilege of our adoption; and if the soul begins to gather up thoughts of consolation, sin quickly scatters them..." John Owen, pg. 23*

*"Although believers can never fall from the state of justification, yet they may, by their sins, follow under God's fatherly displeasure and not have the light of his countenance restored unto them, until they humble themselves, confess their sins, beg pardon, and renew their faith in repentance." Westminster Confession of Faith, 11-5*

*"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."  
1 Peter 2:11*

3. The assurance and joy of our salvation is shaken. While a genuine believer who sins does not lose his or her justification or adoption before God, they can forfeit the joy of the Lord and the happiness of the assurance of their salvation. Fruit bearing is the true sign of genuine faith. Therefore, when an individual is walking through a season of sin and they are experiencing the fatherly discipline of God they cannot experience the full joy of their salvation or the assurance of salvation.

**Question for Discussion:**

1. Why does "put to death therefore what is earthly in you" presuppose regarding the life of a believer?
2. What is the "continuous irreconcilable war"? How is it manifested in the life of a Christian?
3. How are God's good gifts "shafts of his wonderful goodness and glory"?
4. Why do we say that \_\_\_\_\_ is a wonderful gift but a terrible/horrid master?
5. What did Augustine mean when he said that all the gifts of God are "good and pleasant through reference to Him, and justly they shall become bitter when they are loved and forsaken apart from him"?
6. What do we mean when we say we always operate from the glorious foundation of the gospel as compared to jumping into the exhortations of Colossians 3:5?