

Freedom From Sin

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

1 Samuel 15

- **Holiness** – describe as the moral condition of God, people, things, places, and time. It is that which is consistent with God and His character. On the other side, it is threatened by impurity. It is to be “set apart,” “sanctified,” Other synonyms include: “to divide,” “to dedicate,” “severely dedicate; put under ban” “contribute, devote.” Antonyms are, “profane, desecrate,” “betray; commit sacrilege.” Personal holiness could be defined as, *“complete conformity in all things great and small alike, to the Holy Will of God; being at one mind with God in all the judgements of the mind, in all outgoings of the life, agreeing with God’s estimate of things.”*¹

“The Struggle is Real!” is a saying of modern slang. It can be applied to most anything: saving money, exercising, eating right, marriage, etc. Without much doubt, it also applies to holy living. Living that honors God. Believers are easily drawn away mentally, emotionally, and physically from the Lord. There is a false sense of victory (that is short-lived) when we first become a Christian. All of our problems, including sin, will be solved by the Lord. It will now be easier to live.

We are supposed to believe that all the sinful habits, fleshly lusts, gratifications, pride, shameful thoughts, will be banished from the consideration set of our behavior with our salvation in Christ. If only, it were that easy. Instead, we sin daily.

What is the Christian’s antidote to sin? The reality is that the Bible never speaks of a soft answer or easy solution. Instead, it is confrontational, harsh, decisive, and clear about sin. It must be put to death.

I. God’s sentencing Amalek’s to severe judgement.²

- A. The History of Amalek (1 Samuel 15:2)
 - 1. Amalek was a grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:12)
 - 2. The Amalekites viciously attacked Israel (Exodus 17:8-13)
- B. The Destruction of Amalek codified (Deuteronomy 25:17-19)
- C. The Intimidating Armies of the Amalekites (Num 13:29)
- D. Balaam’s prophecy of destruction on the Amalekites (Numbers 24:20)
- E. The Hatred of the Amalekites towards Israel (Judges 6:3-5)
- F. God’s Instruction to King Saul concerning the Amalekites (1 Sam 15:2-3)
 - 1. **1 Samuel 15:2-3**, *Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. 3 Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’ ”*

II. Saul’s Partial Obedience

- A. Saul’s attack (1 Samuel 15:4-7)
- B. Saul’s failure (1 Samuel 15:8-9)
- C. Saul’s rejection (1 Samuel 15:10-21)
 - 1. Partial Obedience is disobedience (11)
 - 2. Self promotion is no substitute for obedience (12)
 - 3. Saul’s self-deception (13,20)
 - 4. The man of God’s reality check (14)
 - 5. The Blame game (15, 21)
 - 6. Samuel’s declaration of roles (16-19)

III. Samuel’s Decisive Action

- A. Samuel put Agag to death (1 Samuel 15:32-33)
 - 1. It was an act of divine judgement.

¹ Smith, James, and Robert Lee. *Handfuls on Purpose for Christian Workers and Bible Students, Series I–XIII*. Five-volume edition. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1971.

² MacArthur, John. *Hacking Agag to Pieces*. Panarama City, CA: Grace to You, 2022

2. It was an picture of divine wrath
3. It was a gesture of complete obedience
- B. Amalek is an illustration of sin that remains in the believer's life
 1. Sin that is not put to death in our lives will rear its head to plunder and pillage our spiritual lives
 2. Sin cannot be shown mercy or it will devour us.
- C. Scriptures commands to deal with sin in our life

IV. What is Mortification?

- A. A definition – a term used to describe the action of “killing” or “deadening” the lusts of the flesh through spiritual self-denial and the infliction of bodily discomfort. An example of mortification would be fasting and abstention from pleasure.
 1. **Romans 8:13**, *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death [mortify] the deeds of the body, you will live.*
 2. **Colossians 3:3–5**, *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death [mortify] therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*
- B. Putting to death sin (Mortification) does not grant us favor with God or salvation. Instead, it is a characteristic of the believer's life. Love not the world
 1. **Matthew 5:29–30**, *If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.*
 2. Jesus is not speaking of literal self-mutilation. Instead, He is addressing the battle and process of sanctification
 - a) **Romans 8:12–13**, *So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*
 - b) It is a spiritual process that is accomplish by the Spirit of God, however, it does involve us and our mind, will, and emotions (Romans 12:1-2)

V. The How and What of Mortification³

- A. Stop Fleshly Lusts
 1. **1 Peter 2:11**, *Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.* (Abstain – “To not do;” “to refrain from;” “to leave alone;” “to be distant;” “to restrain;” A believer must “stop.” It is not a therapy or process)
 - a) **Galatians 5:24**, *And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*
- B. Make no provision for the flesh
 1. This speaks to the fuel for sin **Romans 13:14**, *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*
- C. Focus our mind on Christ
 1. **1 John 3:2–3**, *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*
- D. Meditate on God's Word
 1. **Psalm 119:11**, *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*
- E. Watch and Pray
 1. **Luke 22:40**, *And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”*
- F. Exercise Self-Control as a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5.23)
 1. **1 Corinthians 9:25–27**, *Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*

³ Ibid.

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- a) **to exercise self-control** v. — to resolutely control one's own desires (which would produce actions); especially sensual desires.
 - b) **to discipline** ⇔ **bruise** v. — to discipline, conceived of as striking forcefully so as to make (the undereye or face) black and blue.