

Freedom From Sin

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

1 Samuel 15 & Various Scripture

- **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
- **Mortify** – the act of self denial or the “putting to death” of sinful instincts in order to have freedom from sin and to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is an act of humiliation and comes about through the grace of God. It is the result of, not the condition for, conversion.

I. 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)

II. The How and What of Mortification²

- 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 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

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.*
 - 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.
- G. Be filled with the Spirit
 1. **Ephesians 5:18**, *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*
 2. It is about control, specifically, what we allow to control us.

III. The Duty of Mortification³

- A. Sin is not mortified when it is covered up. (**Proverbs 28:13**, *Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*)
- B. Sin is not mortified when it is only internalized **Matthew 5:22**, *But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.*
- C. Sin is not mortified when it is exchanged for another sin (**Hebrews 3:13**, *But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*)
- D. Sin is not mortified until the conscience has been appeased.
 1. The Goal (**1 Timothy 1:5**, *The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*)
 2. The Method (**1 Peter 3:15–16**, *But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.*)
 3. The Repentance (**2 Corinthians 7:10**, *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*)
- E. Sin is not mortified when it is merely repressed
 1. We attack sin the same way Jesus did in the wilderness
 - a) **Matthew 4:4** (ESV) — 4 But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”
 - b) **Matthew 4:7** (ESV) — 7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”
 - c) **Matthew 4:10** (ESV) — 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ”
 2. “If you merely repress a temptation or this first motion of sin within you, it will probably come up again still more strongly. To that extent I agree with the modern psychology. Repression is always bad. “Well, what do you do?” asks someone. I answer: When you feel that first motion of sin just pull yourself up and say, “Of course I am not having any dealings with this at all.” Expose the thing and say, “This is evil, this is vileness, this is the thing that drove the first man out of Paradise.” Pull it out, look at it, denounce it, hate it for what it is; then you have really dealt with it. You must not merely push it back in a spirit of fear, and in timorous manner. Bring it out, expose it, and analyse it; and then denounce it for what it is until you hate it.” – Martin Lloyd-Jones

³ Ibid.