

Community Group Growth Questions

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday's message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. Read Colossians 3:5-11 in light of Colossians 3:1. How do these verses relate to one another?
3. What does it mean to "put to death" the things that are "earthly" in us? What images come to mind? Name and define the things that we are to put to death. Why are we told to do this?
4. What is the means of putting sin to death? (HINT: How does the gospel answer this question?) Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Cor. 12:9; John 15:5; Gal. 2:20; Titus 2:11-12
5. What are we to "put away"? (Name and Define) Why? How?
6. Read Eph. 4:17-32 (a parallel passage). What similarities do you see? How do these passages help you to understand "putting off the old self" and "putting on the new self"?
7. What do you think it means that "Christ is all, and in all." What does it mean to you in light of the comparisons in v.11?

Living on Mission

1. John Owen said, "...be killing sin or it will be killing you." Do you believe this to be true? In what ways have you practically taken this axiom to heart?
2. Tim Keller says we have the inclination to take our sins to Mt. Sinai (the place of controlling our sins by the law – rules and willpower) rather than taking them to Mt. Calvary (the place where our sins are to die). In essence, we try to reform our sinful flesh, rather than kill it. What is the difference? What is the fruit produced in each case?
3. What specifically is God asking you to "put to death"? What is He asking you to "put away"? How ruthless will you be in obeying God? What will that mean for you in practice?
4. Do you acknowledge by your life that "Christ is all, and in all"? Is there anything that has taken God's rightful place as your "all"? Spend some time in prayer and repentance.

This Week's Reading:

Monday: Colossians 3:1-11
 Tuesday: Ephesians 4:17-32
 Wednesday: Titus 2:11-14
 Thursday: Galatians 3:23-29
 Friday: Romans 6:11-14
 Saturday: Galatians 2:20

Additional Resources:

All of Life is Repentance by Timothy Keller

http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/All_of_Life_Is_Repentance-Keller.pdf

Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers by John Owen

IMPORTANT DATES:

05/06/12 Quarterly Member's Meeting – Sunday at 5:00 pm – Comfort Inn at Aikens Center
 Childcare provided to age 5 – RSVP to tammy@martinsburgchurch.org
 or call 304.596.9330

05/13/12 Baby/Child Dedication – Go to dedication.martinsburgchurch.org to register.

Moldova Mission: 07/05/12 – 07/14/12 - \$2,400 initial deposit now due and the balance due by June 3rd. Email contact@martinsburgchurch.org or go to missions.martinsburgchurch.org to register.

Community Groups – Join one Today!

For more information about group meeting times and locations, please visit groups.martinsburgchurch.org. Gathering weekly for fellowship and accountability, study and prayer, good times and tears. Community Groups are an essential expression of our church's mission. At the heart of the Community Groups ministry is the desire to see a community of believers who worship Jesus, love one another, and embody the mission of The Church at Martinsburg to make disciples.

STUDENT COMMUNITY GROUP: Meeting the **First and Third** Sunday of each month at the Culbertson's Home – Contact Justin at justin.j.culbertson@gmail.com with any questions.

VOLUNTEERING: Interested in serving at C@M? Our volunteers are a huge part of what takes place here not only on Sundays, but the entire week. Visit volunteering.martinsburgchurch.org to see the opportunities we have posted and sign up today! You can call 304.596.9330 or email contact@martinsburgchurch.org.

PASTOR ON CALL FOR 04/20/12 – 04/23/12 Shay Osborne

If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg's Pastor on call.

Missionary Toolbox

Church History Bio – John Owen: (1616 – 1683) Owen is considered "the greatest among the Puritan theologians" says J.I. Packer. Born in England in the middle of the Puritan movement, he was the son of a pastor. He entered Queens College, Oxford at the age of 12, took his Bachelor of Arts at 16 and his M.A. at 19. When he was 26, he heard a country preacher expound on Matthew 8:26, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Owen had massive doctrinal knowledge, but no real sense of the reality of his own salvation. It was this "word" that converted his heart. He lived a life of continual grief – his wife and all 11 children died before he did. For years he battled administrative pressures in both political and pastoral roles, ill health, and still managed to constantly study and write out of his concern for doctrinal faithfulness. His all encompassing aim in life was holiness.

Theological Terms of the Week – "Mortification and Vivification"

Taken from the imagery in Colossians 3:9-10, "the idea of mortification was understood as a putting off of the 'old man,' and vivification was conceived as the reality of being made alive by the Spirit... These twin ideas of sanctification require not only the shedding of sin but also renewal in grace." "Believers, who are free from the condemning power of sin, ought to make it their daily work to mortify the indwelling power of sin... only the Holy Spirit is sufficient for this work... and the life, vigor, and comfort of the believer's spiritual life depends much upon this work of mortifying sin." Mortification "is a habitual, successful weakening of sin that involves constant warfare and contention against the flesh."