CRUCIFY THE FLESH

Romans 6:5-14

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 5:24

24 And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Matthew Henry

And as, by specifying these works of the flesh and fruits of the Spirit, the apostle directs us both what we are to avoid and oppose and what we are to cherish and cultivate, so (v. 24) he informs us that this is the sincere care and endeavour of all real Christians: And those that are Christ’s, says he (those who are Christians indeed, not only in show and profession, but in sincerity and truth), have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. As in their baptism they were obliged hereunto (for, being baptized into Christ, they were baptized into his death, Rom. 6:3), so they are now sincerely employing themselves herein, and, in conformity to their Lord and head, are endeavouring to die unto sin, as he had died for it. They have not yet obtained a complete victory over it; they have still flesh as well as Spirit in them, and that has its affections and lusts, which continue to give them no little disturbance, but as it does not now reign in their mortal bodies, so as that they obey it in the lusts thereof (Rom. 6:12), so they are seeking the utter ruin and destruction of it, and to put it to the same shameful and ignominious, though lingering death, which our Lord Jesus underwent for our sakes.

How to Crucify the Flesh

1. **Christ’s Work is already Done**: Greek verb tense indicates something that was done which has ongoing consequences in the future
   - John 19:30 – So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.
   - Romans 6:6-11 – …knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him… Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
   - Galatians 5:24 – And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
2. **Healing is an Ongoing Process:** Look at the Apostle Paul as our model/example

- **1 Corinthians 15:31** – *I die daily*
- **Romans 7:19** – The good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but *sin that dwells in me*.
- **2 Corinthians 12:7** – And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I *pleaded with the Lord three times* that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

3. **If We Don’t Crucify the Flesh, It will Crucify Us:**

- **Matthew 5:29-30** – If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your **whole body to be cast into hell**. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your **whole body to be cast into hell**.
- **Hebrews 10:26** – For if we **sin willfully** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **but a certain fearful expectation of judgment**, and fiery indignation which will **devour the adversaries**.
- **2 Timothy 3:1-7** – But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- **Matthew 10:28** – And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

4. **It is Christ Who Does the Work – Not Us:**

- **1 John 1:9-10** – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. If we say that we have **not sinned**, we make Him a **liar**, and His word is not in us.
- **Revelation 1:5-6** – To Him who loved us and **washed us from our sins in His own blood**, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- **Revelation 7:14** – These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them **white in the blood of the Lamb**.
- **Revelation 12:11** – And they overcame him by the **blood of the Lamb** and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
- **2 Corinthians 12:9** – “My grace is sufficient for you, for **My strength is made perfect in weakness**.”
  - Jesus and Satan **war** in your place(s) of **weakness**
  - Satan comes to make war whether you like it or not – **Jesus only comes if you ask Him**
  - It is **no contest** when Jesus meets Satan head-to-head – Jesus **always wins**