

DYING *to* LIVE

WEEK 2
Living Dead

Message Notes
Danny Anderson

Believers in Christ have become new people.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation. The **old** has passed away; behold, the new has come. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Our problem is our sinful nature.

The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the **opposite** of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the **opposite** of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly **fighting** each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. *Galatians 5:17*

"The substance of ourselves, formed in a world against God, is ready to act otherwise in all of its dimensions, especially social and the body. Our very habits of thinking, feeling, and willing are wrongly poised." Dallas Willard

"If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same. *Mark 14:31*

The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. *Romans 7:14-15*

I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. *Romans 7:18-19*

What is the answer?

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to **completion** at the day of Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:6*

You must die to your sinful nature.

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have **nailed** the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and **crucified** them there. *Galatians 5:24*

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. *Colossians 3:5*

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. *Philippians 2:12-13*

1. God will let you fail.

For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that **his life** may also be revealed in our mortal body. *2 Corinthians 4:11*

2. You must take intentional action to kill your sinful nature.

Remove the bad stuff.

"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no **provision** for the flesh, to gratify its desires." *Romans 13:14*

Add the good stuff.

1. Scripture

It is the Spirit who gives life... The words that I have spoken to you are **spirit** and **life**. *John 6:63*

2. Solitude

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a **solitary place**, where he prayed. *Mark 1:35*

3. Fasting

"But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will **fast**." *Luke 5:35*

"There is no other way to live this Christian life than by a continual death to self." Francis Fenelon

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY Luke 4:1-30	MONDAY Luke 4:31-5:11	TUESDAY Luke 5:12-28
this week	march 20	march 21	march 22
WEDNESDAY Luke 5:29-6:11	THURSDAY Luke 6:12-38	FRIDAY Luke 6:39-7:10	SATURDAY Luke 7:11-35
march 23	march 24	march 25	march 26
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE 2 Corinthians 5:17			

DYING *to* LIVE

For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

LAST WEEK'S ACTION STEP

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

OTHER POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR CHECK-IN

TIME WITH GOD – What are you applying that you are getting from your daily time with God?

MEMORY/MEDITATION VERSE – State it.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR - Who was accountable for you? Did they care for you by helping you achieve your action step(s) this past week?

Introduction

As believers we have a new identity in Christ, but our sinful nature (the patterns of thought, feeling, and action that remain untransformed within us) prevents us from experiencing the abundant life promised by Christ. The rich and satisfying life Jesus promised doesn't come the way we expect. We must starve the desires within us that draw us away from God in order to make room for the Spirit of God. Theologian Francis Fenelon said it this way, "There's no other way to live this Christian life than by a continual death to self."

Discussion Questions

1. Read Romans 7:18-19. Do you have an area in your life like Paul describes here? If so, why do you feel it is such a struggle to overcome?

2. Read Galatians 5:17. How does this passage explain our situation?

Read Romans 13:14. How have you left room for your sinful nature to be indulged? What do you need to get rid of? How has your sinful nature become a roadblock in your pursuit of life in Christ?

Small Group Questions Continued

3. Read Galatians 5:24 and Colossians 3:5. Based on these passages, what must we do in order to experience new life in Christ? Share some practical ways we can begin to surrender the parts of our lives we have refused to give to God. Write some of those ideas in the space below.

4. Pastor John Ortberg wrote, "Habits eat willpower for breakfast." Which spiritual discipline will you commit to in order to create godly habits that will help kill off your sinful nature?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for:

