



“better THAN PERFECT”

Sin & Effect

Text: 2 Samuel 13-18

Men's Discipleship and Grow Group Coordinator Adam McIntire

1. This story of David, Absalom, Amnon, Tamar is a sober reminder of the seriousness with which we need to go about killing sin in our life and helping our Christian brothers and sisters do the same.

Read Romans 8:29-30 and Ephesians 4:15-16.

- a. What does Romans 8:29 reveal about God's will is in the lives of those whom He saves?
 - b. What does Ephesians 4:15-16 show us about how this process often happens?
 - c. Most of us error on one side or the other. We either are more prone to speaking truth, but in a blunt and harsh way, or we don't say anything, convinced in our own minds that that is the loving thing to do. However, Paul tells us that we are supposed to "speak the truth in love." What do you think he means by that?
 - d. Imagine for a moment that David was willing to speak the truth in love to Amnon. How might have this situation turned out differently?
2. Now let's meditate on our own life. Puritan pastor, John Owen, said "Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you."

Read Romans 8:12-17.

- a. What is at risk if we aren't serious about killing sin in our lives?
 - b. How has God provided for us in this effort to deal with sin in our lives?
 - c. What blessings do we receive when we go about the work of killing sin in our lives?
 - d. Now when we talk about killing sin, we are not talking about earning God's love or forgiveness. See Romans 8:1-4. How has God provided for sinful humanity to be reconciled to Himself?
 - e. What then is the connection between salvation and the work of killing sin in the life of the believer who has received salvation?
3. Read 2 Samuel 18:9. God used this moment to stop Absalom as his donkey just kept on going.

- a. What has consumed your thinking and actions so much that you, like Absalom, are now stuck in a tree?
 - b. What, in your own life, is moving right along while you are stuck in a tree?
4. We were offered three steps or a process of repentance. Confession, being pro-active, and repenting as a response to grace. Share with the group how you have experienced at least one in your own life.
- a. Did you have a moment of confession with a trusted friend? Or one-on-one with God?
 - b. How were you proactive in your repentance?
 - c. What actions did you take to physically turn away from that sin?
 - d. How have you seen victory in that area of your life?

Challenge: If you are struggling with a pattern of sin and/or the consequences of sin, there is grace and forgiveness for you. Start by confessing the sin to God, and one other person this week. Sin can leave deep wounds in our souls and keep us from the life of freedom God has for us. Consider finding healing and participating in the Kairos Conference on October 20th and 21st.

<http://faithbridge.org/care-prayer/kairos-freedom-ministry//>

Prayer: Lord I repent of all the sin in my life. I repent of the sins that I know of, and the sins that I don't know of. If there is any sin that I don't know of, please bring it to my mind that I may repent. Please forgive me Lord of any pride, rebellion, vanity, jealousy, judging, distrust, prejudice, dishonesty, theft, greed, spiritual adultery or fornication, or any spiritual murder. In the name of Jesus Christ.

Please forgive me if there is any refusal or inability to forgive others. Please help me forgive as you forgive. I thank you Lord for washing me clean with the blood of Jesus Christ. I thank you Lord for creating in me a clean heart and renewing a right spirit within me, a spirit that will worship you, glorify you, and serve you for the rest of my life. In the name of Jesus Christ.

Thank You Lord for blotting out my transgressions for Your own sake, and that You will not remember my sins. In the name of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 43:25

Thank you Lord that If I confess my sins, You are faithful and just to forgive my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:9

Thank you Lord that you forgive all my iniquities, you heal all my diseases, you redeem my life from destruction, and crown me with loving-kindness and tender mercies, You satisfy my mouth with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's. In the name of Jesus Christ. Psalm 103:2-5

Thank you Lord that you will completely restore my soul and spirit so that I may fully serve You. Please help me overcome my past and heal me so that nothing hinders your plan and purpose for my life.

Thank you Lord for helping me not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Because You are doing a new thing... In the name of Jesus Christ.. Isaiah 43:18-19

Thank you Lord that if I turn again to You, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that You will restore me... In the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 3:19-20

Thank you Lord that You will set your eyes on me for good, and You will bring me back. You will build me up, and not tear me down; You will plant me, and not pluck me up. You will give me a heart to know that You are the LORD, and I shall be your people, and You will be my God, for I shall return to You with My whole heart. In the name of Jesus Christ. Jeremiah 24:6-7

Thank you Lord that you will help me put away all malice, deceit and hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Like a newborn, help me desire the pure spiritual milk that I may grow up into salvation – I am chosen and precious in your sight, a living stone being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to You through Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:1-25

<http://www.firstchurchsanjose.com/all-resource-list/how-to-pray-for-repentance-and-restoration/>

STUDY DEEPER

The Consequences of Sin by Charles Stanley

Suffering is unavoidable, and it comes without warning. Hardship can shatter or strengthen us, just as it can destroy or deepen our faith. The outcome hinges not on the nature or source of the adversity, but on the character and spirit of our response to it. But how should we respond to suffering caused by our own sin?

REBELLION AGAINST GOD ALWAYS HAS A CONSEQUENCE.

Rebellion against God always has a consequence of some sort, even if it's only guilt. How can you respond to suffering that's the result of your own willful choices? To follow are steps I've found helpful in dealing with the consequences of sin:

Assume responsibility.

Don't look for someone else to blame—and avoid thinking about what would've happened if the other person had acted differently. Instead, own up to your mistakes. Admit to yourself the adverse circumstances you're facing are of your own doing.

Confess and repent of sin.

To confess is to agree with God regarding your disobedience. Tell Him you've sinned—not just that you made a mistake or had an accident. Then repent, which requires that you make a decision to turn away from sin. This may entail ending a relationship or finding a new job. You may need to apologize to the person you wronged or return something you've stolen. To repent is to make every arrangement necessary to avoid repeating the same failing.

Ask God to help you discover the weakness through which sin crept into your life. Is there a flaw in your thinking? Have you adopted ideas into your world view that are contrary to Scripture? Do you have any unaddressed insecurity? Are your friends dragging you down? Is someone or something in your life a constant source of temptation? Questions like these can help you identify how sin entered your life and found a resting place.

Recognize God wants to use adversity in your life.

Regardless of the source, adversity is always a powerful tool in the Lord's hands—when you cooperate with how He wants to use it in your life. Tell Him, “I know I'm suffering because of my own doing. But I trust You will use this time of adversity to deepen my faith and strengthen my commitment to You.”

Thank God for revealing your sin. True repentance is followed by genuine gratitude. God disciplines those He loves, and no one finds the process pleasant (Heb. 12:11). But when you understand suffering from God's viewpoint, you can appreciate that He plans to use trials to accomplish good.

No matter what hardship sin has caused in your life, you don't have to be defeated by it. If you're a child of God who desires for Him to be glorified through your life, adversity will not put you down for the count. There may be initial moments of shock and confusion. But the man or woman who views life and eternity from God's perspective will emerge victorious through any trial.

<https://www.intouch.org/read/the-consequences-of-sin>