Spiritual Surgery v3

Are we willing to suffer a lesser pain now to avoid a greater pain in eternity?

Introduction

- Although we have made great medical advancements, we still suffer pain in this life caused by disease or injury
- Ironically, often in order to avoid a greater pain, even death, we must be willing to endure a lesser pain
- Jesus speaks, in a spiritual sense, of enduring a lesser pain now to avoid a greater eternal pain

We willingly choose to endure a lesser pain to avoid a greater pain, even death

- People having various surgeries to remove cancerous tumors and organs or body parts that may be affected
- Removal of my right eye because of iritis in winter of 1982

Jesus demands painful removal of sinful members of the body to avoid eternal pain

Mat 5:27 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';

Mat 5:28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Jesus demands painful removal of sinful members of the body to avoid eternal pain

Mat 5:29 "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Mat 5:30 "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

Is Jesus' demand for spiritual surgery literal or figurative?

- Is Jesus saying we must literally pluck out our eyes and cut off our hands?
- No, for He only mentions the right eye and hand
- But, He is demanding a radical painful change that puts to death the members of our body to sin so that we may live for Him

By the gospel, we can be dead to sin, renewing our mind and living for Christ

- After a painful surgery, we not only want the pain gone but we want to function better
- Spiritually, this involves replacing sinful conduct with new righteous thinking, desires, attitudes, habits and relationships in harmony with the gospel
- As we continue to do this, we become conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus

By the gospel, we can be dead to sin, renewing our mind and living for Christ

- It begins when we believe in Jesus to the point of repenting of our sins and are baptized for the forgiveness of our sins
- We renounce sin and commit ourselves to serving Christ
- As Christians, the pain continues as we keep repenting of our sins, denying ourselves sin and using our hearts and members for righteousness, becoming more like Jesus each day

Painless Christianity is false

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

Rom 6:2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

Crucified and raised with Christ at baptism

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Our crucifixion and resurrection continues as we live the Christian life

Rom 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Rom 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

Our crucifixion and resurrection continues as we live the Christian life

Rom 6:13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Change must come from the heart

Rom 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

Rom 6:18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Change must come from the heart

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Result – conformed to the image of His Son

Rom 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

By the gospel, we can be dead to sin, renewing our mind and living for Christ

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 up for me.

By the gospel, we can be dead to sin, renewing our mind and living for Christ

Col 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Col 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

By the gospel, we can be dead to sin, renewing our mind and living for Christ

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Col 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Col 3:6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

By the gospel, we can be dead to sin, renewing our mind and living for Christ

Col 3:7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

Col 3:8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

By the gospel, we can be dead to sin, renewing our mind and living for Christ

Col 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him--

Col 3:11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

By the gospel, we can be dead to sin, renewing our mind and living for Christ

Col 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Col 3:14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Why not start the painful but joyous Christian life today?

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Why not continue the painful but joyous Christian life today?

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.