

Spiritual Homicide – Colossians 3:5-7

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When Paul begins to apply his theology in practical terms, his first word to believers is, literally, “Kill the parts of your body.” This appears to be a radical solution to the issue of sin. But when we consider the larger context of the letter, we realize that this *spiritual homicide* logically flows from the apostle’s teaching about life in Christ, and is essential to our understanding of how to deal with sin. We realize the importance of Paul’s instruction through *three observations*:

1. Spiritual homicide is a severing from the believer’s former life outside of Christ (3:6-7).
2. Spiritual homicide is energized through the death that the believer has already died in Christ (3:5; cf. 2:20; 3:3).
3. Spiritual homicide is a way the believer lives out what is already true of him or her in Christ (3:5).