

I've also noticed that the youngest weeds are easier to remove and the older ones are more stubborn.

Bad habits are like that. The longer they remain, the more difficult they are to remove. If we uproot them early, when our heart is tender toward God's love, we will have the best chance for success.

Paul tells us of God's great love and abundant grace to us (Rom. 5:20-21). These truths can soften the soil of a hard heart. And when we understand that Jesus died to free us from the penalty and the power of sin (6:1-14), we will see the need to fight aggressively against sinful habits.

A passive faith won't kill a bad habit. Faith must actively apply these truths. "Pulling weeds" is often a painful process of multi-failures followed by the success of failing for the last time.

Do you have some weeds that need pulling? –DJJ

A bad habit is like a soft chair—easy to get into but hard to get out of.



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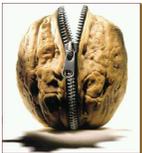
Pulling Weeds

Do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. –Romans 6:12

Pulling weeds from my lawn can be a struggle. Whether it's unearthing a string of ivy or digging up dandelions, it's often difficult to overcome God's curse in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:17-18).

When the ground is hard and dry, weeds are highly resistant to being uprooted. But when a soaking rain softens the soil, they yield quite readily.





Romans: Truth in a Nutshell

(unzipped for you)

Burying the Old Man

Romans 6:1-14 describes two steps in overcoming sin:

1. _____ different, verses 1-2, 5:20-21,

◆ Baptism, verses 3-5

(2 Corinthians 5:8) "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."

(Ephesians 2:1) "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,"

(Revelation 20:14) "Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.

This is the second death."



◆ The cross, verses 6-11



2. _____ different, verses 12-14



(2 Corinthians 5:17) "... old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

(Psalms 36:1) "An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked:

There is no fear of God before his eyes."

(Psalms 36:2) "For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin." [paraphrase]

