

#03

KILLER SINS

Compared to other lists of sins



Killer Sins – "LITTLE" sins
that people tend to consider harmless.
(Includes attitudes that people can't even see.)

- ✓ The **roots** from which "BIG" sins grow.
- ✓ The **divider** that separates us from God, long before the "BIG" sins ever get committed.



GOD

÷ ÷ ÷ ÷ ÷

PEOPLE

RESPONDING
to the
"Killer Sins"
in our lives.

"Killer sins" begin when the world's sinful influences become a part of us.

WRONG THOUGHTS EXTERNAL TO US

We are surrounded by wrong influences.

We have a sin nature, ...

So we tend to internalize these influences.

WRONG THOUGHTS INTERNAL TO US

WHO gets the blame?

IT IS TRUE ... Anyone who encourages us to develop sinful values will be judged by God.

HOWEVER ... We share the blame.

Because of our sin nature...

- ✓ We willingly chose to **accept** and **reinforce** sinful values.
- ✓ When others encouraged us to sin, it was simply an opportunity for us to let our own sinful nature express itself. We were the ones who said "YES" to the opportunity to sin.

We must CHOOSE how we will respond to the influences that have affected us:

- ✓ We can continue to accept and follow them.
 - **This is the easy way:** We just keep on doing what we're already doing.
- ✓ We can repent of our values and choose to follow Jesus instead.
 - **This is the difficult way:** We have to fight (with God's power) to undo the values we originally chose.

BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT, I'LL CHANGE!

If we choose to follow Jesus...

We will have to focus on changing BOTH:

- The visible sins we commit (whether we consider them "big" or "little"),
- Our hidden values and attitudes – "secret" sins that make the visible sins occur.

In other words, we will need renewed minds.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, ...

Romans 12:2a (NASB)

WHAT are these "Killer Sins"?

WHAT are these "Killer Sins"? Can we list them?

- **IN THE BIBLE:** There is no specific list with the name "Killer Sins."
(Probably because all sins will kill you!)
- **ATTEMPTS BY PEOPLE:** Down through the centuries, people have developed lists of sins that seem to fit this description.
(The Bible mentions the sins, but not all grouped together in one list.)

The "Seven Deadly Sins"
is one such list,
developed in the early church.

These sins are:

Lust
Gluttony
Greed
Sloth
Wrath
Envy
Pride

Problems with the list (1):

- Sometimes people think the list represents "unforgivable" sins. Once you've committed them, it is impossible for you to be forgiven.
❖ **THIS IS just plain WRONG!**

The "Unforgivable" Sin? There is only one.

- This involves becoming so convinced that the Holy Spirit is actually the devil, that you permanently reject what the Bible says. (Some of the religious leaders in Jesus' day committed this sin, Mark 3:28-30.)
- If you are willing to accept what the Bible says, you haven't committed this sin.

Problems with the list (2):

- These "Seven Deadly Sins" are much broader in scope than most people realize.
- People with a narrow view of these concepts may close their eyes to a wide range of sins they might be committing.

EXAMPLES:

"Lust" – Many people think this refers only to sexual desires. If they don't have such desires, they consider themselves not guilty of this sin.

"Gluttony" – If you eat too much food, does that mean you're going to hell? (This has to do with more than food!)

EXAMPLE: LUST is more than just this!

EXAMPLE: GLUTTONY doesn't necessarily mean this!

OUR GOAL (in future weeks):

Focus on the fundamental *attitudes* that result in the sins in this list.

WHY? → BECAUSE:

- ✓ These attitudes are at the very beginning of the "killing process"!
- ✓ They are the "root" from which the visible sins grow.

Sinful "ROOT" attitudes can cause all kinds of problems!

EXAMPLE: The love of money

Certainly, the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people who have set their hearts on getting rich have wandered away from the Christian faith and have caused themselves a lot of grief.

1 Tim. 6:10 (GW)

- **GREED** is called one of the "Seven Deadly Sins"... but "the love of money" is just *one* aspect of it.

Are there any lists of sins in the Bible?

[These lists are not our focus in the coming weeks.]

Are there any lists of sins in the Bible?

YES! But no group is described as being "deadlier" than the others.

WHY?

- ✓ ALL sins are deadly (though not all can be called "root" sins).
- ✓ Besides, not doing what is right is also sin (James 4:17).

If the Bible grouped together a few sins and called them "deadly," we'd probably look for some sins not on the list, and consider them safe!

What types of sin lists can we find?

ONE COMPREHENSIVE LIST:

- The Ten Commandments – (Exodus 20:3-17) – contains several "Do not" commands. This list describes categories, not specific types, of sin.

MANY REPRESENTATIVE LISTS:

- Other lists (there are several) give examples of different sins, but do not list them all!

Romans 1:30 mentions the sin of inventing ways to do evil. So even if there was a comprehensive list of specific sins, we would do what we could to make the list incomplete!

Some Old Testament Lists

- THE TEN COMMANDMENTS** – Exodus 20:3-17
- SEVEN SINS THAT GOD HATES** – Proverbs 6:16-19
- A LIST SINS THAT WOULD RESULT IN BEING CURSED** – Deuteronomy 27:15-26.
- A FEW OTHER LISTS THAT MAY FOCUS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES** – such as various sexual sins in Leviticus 18. (But most of these passages contain more than just lists of sins.)

IT SEEMS THAT MOST OF THE "SIN LISTS" ARE FOUND IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

The Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:3-17

- This is the only comprehensive list. It describes 10 categories of sins (and righteous conduct).
- All "specific" sins can be placed in these categories.



Seven sins that God hates:

(Of course, God hates other sins as well!)

The LORD hates six things; in fact, seven are detestable to Him:

arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, *
hands that shed innocent blood,
a heart that plots wicked schemes,
feet eager to run to evil,
a lying witness who gives false testimony, **
and one who stirs up trouble among brothers.

Proverbs 6:16-19 (HCSB)

* (LYING IN GENERAL) ** (INTENT TO VERBALLY HARM SOMEONE)

Some of the Larger New Testament Lists

- SINS THAT COME FROM WITHIN A PERSON** – Matthew 15:18-20; Mark 7:20-23
- SINS THAT DESERVE DEATH** – Romans 1:26-32
- SINS THAT EXCLUDE PEOPLE FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD** – 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:25-5:6 (mixed with various exhortations)
- SINS THAT EARN THE WRATH OF GOD** – Colossians 3:5-9; Ephesians 4:25-5:6 (also listed above)
- TYPICAL SINS OF THE "LAST DAYS"** – 2 Timothy 3:1-7
- SINS THAT WILL EXCLUDE PEOPLE FROM THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM** – Revelation 22:15

Some of the specific sins found in the New Testament lists

adultery, anger, arrogance, backbiting, bitterness, blasphemy, boastful, conceited, corrupt speech, covenant breakers, covetousness, deceit, depraved passion, disobedient to parents, divisions, drunkenness, envy, evil desire, evil habits, evil thoughts, extortionists, false testimony, falsehood, filthiness, foolish talking, foolishness, grieve the Holy Spirit of God, hateful to God, hatred, headstrong, heresies, holding a form of godliness but having denied its power, homosexual practices, idolatry, insolence, inventors of evil, jealousy, jesting, lie, lovers of money, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, lovers of self, lovers of good, lustful desires, male prostitutes, malice, murder, murderers, orgies, outbursts of anger, outcry, pride, rivalries, secret slanderers, sexual immorality, shameful speaking, slander, sorcery, steal, strife, thefts, traitors, uncleanness (morally), unforgiving, unholy, unmerciful, unrighteousness, unthankful, vile passions [homosexual practices], wickedness, without natural affection, without self-control, without understanding, without natural affection, wrath

THAT'S QUITE A FEW!

**So many sins... But:
HERE IS A KEY CONCEPT YOU SHOULD
NEVER FORGET:**

- **HUNDREDS OF SINS** are described in the Bible.
 (Some people claim that there are 666 or 667
 different sins listed in the Bible.)
- **ALL BUT ONE** can be forgiven (as previously explained).

➔ **THIS MEANS:**

- If you desire to be forgiven and are willing to repent and trust Jesus... you haven't committed the "unforgiveable" sin, and **you can be forgiven!**

This week, CONSIDER:

- ✓ How do YOU respond to sin?
 - ✓ ... to "small" sins?
 - ✓ ... to sinful attitudes?

- Are you pursuing righteousness, as one who has been forgiven?

<< OR >>

- Are you still clinging to sin that will kill you?

Credits

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "GW" - Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®, Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "NASB" - Scriptures quoted from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)
- Scriptures marked "HCSB" - Scripture quotations marked HCSB are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Skull and crossbones - Pearson Scott Foresman [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Skull_and_crossbones_vector.svg
- Tree / roots - wipp [Public domain]; via openclipart.org; <https://openclipart.org/detail/9902/indya-coal-of-arms>
- Man and woman pictures - rejon [Public domain]; via openclipart.org; <https://openclipart.org/detail/181817/a-family-of-friendly-graphics>
- Weight scale - Locomotive Museum [CC BY-SA 3.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)], from Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Locomotive_Museum_-_2014-07-11_-_Andy_Mabbett_-_16.JPG
- 10 Commandments - Michael Rivera [CC BY-SA 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0)], from Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ten_Commandments_marker_in_front_of_Duane_County_Courthouse.JPG
- Presentation - Dennis Hinks © 2018.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree; some might not.