



#05



KILLER SINS



LUST & THE
KILLER SIN "I CRAVE"



**LAST TIME, WE COMMENTED
THAT MOST CHURCH-GOERS...**

- ✓ Are quite comfortable with the world's values.
- ✓ Don't recognize the difference between the world's values and God's values...

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- ✓ They may be religious, but their values aren't from the Bible.
- ✓ They obtained them from somewhere else – their parents, peers, media, false teachers in the church, etc.

**THIS DOESN'T MEAN THEIR VALUES
WILL ALWAYS LOOK "BAD"!**

The devil has two basic types of "evil ways":

1. Obvious opposition to God's truth.
2. Sneaky counterfeits of God's truth.

To get people on his side...

- ❖ All he needs to do is to get people to view these two sets of values as "opposites."

If people view the "opposing" values as "WRONG," they can easily accept the "counterfeit" values as "RIGHT."

**ONLY SCRIPTURE CAN TEACH US HOW TO DISTINGUISH
BETWEEN COUNTERFEITS AND WHAT IS GENUINE.**

★ **WITHOUT SCRIPTURE:** We can very easily reject one counterfeit... and turn to another! ★

EXAMPLE: Some church-goers reject modern church fakeness, and then turn to some of the fake practices that plagued the early church.

I DON'T LIKE THE FAKENESS I SEE IN THE CHURCH!

LET'S SEE HOW THE EARLY "CHURCH FATHERS" DID IT!

WHY NOT GO STRAIGHT TO THE BIBLE?

Our GOAL today:

TO BEGIN LOOKING AT ONE OF
THE "KILLER SINS."

- ✓ Our "starting point" is the list of sins that the early church called the "Seven Deadly Sins."
(This list is not "inspired" and originally went through some small changes.)
- ✓ We will find out what the Bible says, and will use that to define how we view the issue.

"Deadly" sins vs. "Killer" sins?

Since we will be showing how the concepts in our study relate to views developed in the early church, we will distinguish them in this way:

- ✓ "Seven Deadly Sins" – A list of sins developed in the early church – sins that often hide in the heart, and are the foundation or "starting point" for other, more visible, types of sin.
- ✓ "Killer Sins" – Our study of the actions or attitudes that often result in the "deadly" sins... but which may also result in other types of conduct, good or bad.

OUR PLAN FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS GOAL:

- ✓ **Determine what the words actually mean** (as used in the "Seven Deadly Sins" list).
 - The meanings of words sometimes change.
 - This may influence our perception of the issue.
- ✓ **Look at the broader concepts** – the actions or attitudes which result in the sin.
 - We may discover that the same action can be applied to something EVIL or something GOOD.
 - When these actions are used for EVIL, we will call them "Killer Sins."

WHAT WILL THIS ACCOMPLISH?

When we focus on the actions or attitudes ...

... instead of a specific name for a specific sin

We begin to realize:

- ✓ The broader concepts are not always sinful.
- ✓ We need to learn to recognize the differences between good and evil situations.



This awareness may help us in overcoming Satan's attacks on us.



Applying these things to the first Killer Sin on our list.

The original "Seven Deadly Sins" includes the word:



LUST

- For most people, this refers to a type of sexual sin.
- If they aren't committing this specific sin, they consider themselves "not guilty" of lust.

As we look at this issue more closely, we discover:

1. The WORD has changed in the way it is used.
 - In the past, it didn't always have a negative connotation.
2. The ACTION or ATTITUDE that results in this sin can be applied to a much greater range of activities.
 - It can even be used to describe good activities.

1. THE WORD: The way the word "lust" is used has changed.

- ✓ **TODAY**: It tends to have a negative connotation.
- ✓ **SEVERAL CENTURIES AGO**: The word was considered more "neutral" and could be used in ways considered "good."

This can be seen in some older Bible translations!

(In a 400-year old Bible translation)

Some types of "LUST" were encouraged!

When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as he hath promised thee, and thou shalt say, I will eat flesh, because thy soul longeth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after.

Deuteronomy 12:20 (KJV)

A MODERN TRANSLATION MAY SAY:

- ✓ "As much as you want."
- ✓ "Whatever you desire."

But the same word will be translated as "lust" in other passages.

2. **THE ATTITUDE OR ACTION:** The actual concept can apply to anything that is associated with a "strong desire."

It becomes a "killer sin" only when the "strong desire" is a sinful desire!

Does this mean that the sin named in the "Seven Deadly Sins" is less serious?

✓ ABSOLUTELY NOT! Instead, we need to realize that the other sins are just as serious. Don't be like this... →

I STRONGLY DESIRE ...

GOOD LOOKS
VACATIONS
FREE TIME
A HOUSE
CAREER
HAPPINESS
DRUGS
POSSESSIONS
CARS
HOBBIES
ATTENTION
ALCOHOL
FAME
ENTERTAINMENT
MONEY
HIGH I.Q.
SECURITY

... BUT AT LEAST I'M NOT "LUSTING"!

[ACTUALLY, YOU MIGHT STILL BE SINNING!]

So let's begin!

What is the "Killer Sin" that can result in LUST?

One of the "Seven Deadly Sins" is called "lust."

Many people view it as referring mainly to a "sexual sin of the mind."

In our study of "Killer Sins," we focus our attention on the **ACTION** or **ATTITUDE** – the strong desire or craving that results in the "lust."

In doing so, we discover... →

THIS ISSUE FOCUSES ON MORE THAN JUST SEXUAL SIN:

- ✓ Longings
- ✓ Strong desires
- ✓ Things we crave
- ✓ Things we strongly want
- ✓ And yes, it does include lust.

The actual concept has to do with having a "strong desire" for ANYTHING, whether good or bad.

We can have "STRONG DESIRES" (or "cravings") for all kinds of things – many of which may be good!

- ✓ Sex
- ✓ Evil
- ✓ Money
- ✓ Power
- ✓ Control
- ✓ Pleasure
- ✓ God
- ✓ Peace
- ✓ Goodness
- ✓ Righteousness
- ✓ Love for neighbor
- ✓ So much more!

So the question is...

THE QUESTION IS:

When does
"strong desire"
become a
"killer sin"?



We will continue this
next time.

This week:

✦ Since your understanding of this issue may
have expanded beyond what it was last week... ✦

Look again at last week's questions.
See if any of your answers are different!

**CONSIDER again these questions:**

- ✓ What types of things do you strongly desire?
 - ✓ ... are they good... or bad?
 - ✓ ... how do you know?

- How can we know **with certainty** whether our "strong desires" or "cravings" are good or bad?
- How do we know if we have committed a "killer sin"?

Credits

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "KJV" – King James Version (public domain).

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