

#15

# KILLER SINS

The sinful form  
of "I Crave"  
– a focus on self

## Examples of "I CRAVE"

... as a "KILLER SIN" ...

↓

**TODAY: A focus on "SELF."**

We already looked at three types  
of sinful craving:

DESIRING / CRAVING / LUSTING FOR ...

1. Someone you are not married to (sexual lust).
2. Wealth, money, possessions, etc.
3. Evil in its many forms.

One more example ...

Example:

**Being "SELF-FOCUSED."**

One who isolates himself seeks his own **desire**,  
and he quarrels with all sound judgment.

Proverbs 18:1 (ULB)

- ✓ **TYPE OF SINFUL CRAVING:**  
A constant preoccupation with one's own desires.
- ✓ **TYPE OF PERSON WHO DOES IT:** An unfriendly, antagonistic, hostile person.  
[= the reason he isolates himself]

I'M INTERESTED  
IN "ME, MYSELF,  
AND I!"

I DON'T CARE  
ABOUT YOU AND  
WHAT YOU SAY!

One who isolates himself ...  
Proverbs 18:1a (ULB)

This isn't describing a person who  
occasionally wants some time alone.

THIS PERSON IS:

- 1) **Preoccupied:** with self.
- 2) **Unwilling to recognize:**
  - ✓ The **value** of other people.
  - ✓ His **obligation** to "love his neighbor as himself."

One who isolates himself ...  
Proverbs 18:1a (ULB)

This person ignores his  
DUTY toward others.

HE IGNORES GOD'S COMMAND!

THIS IS  
WHAT GOD  
REQUIRES  
US TO DO!

Each of you should look not only to your own  
interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philip. 2:4 (NIV)

One who isolates himself ...  
Proverbs 18:12a (ULB)

ISOLATE?  
NOT ME!!

Perhaps most of us won't go to this extreme of completely excluding other people.

**But ALL sinful forms of "I CRAVE" involve a focus on self.**

(In that respect, we are no different.)

One who isolates himself ...  
Proverbs 18:12a (ULB)

ISOLATE?  
NOT ME!!

More often, our sinful craving...

- 1) Works with others (who share similar cravings), or
- 2) Takes advantage of others, or
- 3) Gets graciously restrained by God.\*

\* (For instance, God may restrain it by circumstances, by conscience, etc.)

Where does this **SINFUL CRAVING** come from?

IT'S ALL INSIDE ME!

SINFUL CRAVING comes from the SIN that resides within us!!

How bad is our situation?

The sin within us will take something GOOD and use it as an opportunity to produce sinful craving!

**EXAMPLE:** What happens when people learn the GOOD command "DO NOT COVET"?

But sin took the opportunity provided by this command and made me have all kinds of wrong desires.

Romans 7:8a (GW)

The WORLD encourages us to crave ...

But WE are the ones who choose to say "YES."  
It's because of the sin living within us.

★ If sin were not in us, we would not say "YES." ★

**How Jesus – a sinless person – responded:**

The world tempted Jesus, just like it tempts us; but sin was NOT in him, so the world failed in its attempts.

He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn't sin.

Hebrews 4:15b (GW)

**What's the significance for me?**

Those who have God's Spirit within them have the power to respond the way Jesus did!

**Those who have God's Spirit within them ... DON'T have to say "YES"!**

We have to fight the sinful cravings, but we don't have to yield to them.  
(Those who don't have the Spirit of God do the yielding.)

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Romans 8:5 (NIV)

WHEN THE WORLD TEMPTS US WITH SINFUL CRAVING... **HOW** should we respond to this temptation?

1) CRAVE what the world offers? ... OR ... 2) LOVE and OBEY God?

THE APOSTLE JOHN GIVES US THE ANSWER!

**YOU CAN'T HAVE BOTH SINFUL CRAVING AND GOD'S LOVE.**

**STOP** loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you.

1 John 2:15 (NLT)

**THIS IS PROOF!** IF you love what the world offers... THEN God's love is NOT in you.

**WHAT THE WORLD OFFERS IS NOT FROM GOD!**

THE WORLD ONLY OFFERS:

- To satisfy our INTERNAL impulses.
- To satisfy our EXTERNAL impulses.
- All with a focus on SELF.

For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions.

**These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world.**

1 John 2:16 (NLT)

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO CLING TO?**  
**something that will fade away... or something that will endure forever?**

And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever.

1 John 2:17 (NLT)

- DO YOU CRAVE WHAT THE WORLD OFFERS? **YOU LOSE!** (You LACK the Spirit of God.)
- DO YOU CRAVE THE WILL OF GOD? **YOU WIN!** (The Spirit of God is in you.)

This is the focus of the person who ...

- ✓ has God's life within himself.
- ✓ wants to do the will of God.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Cor. 10:31 (NIV)

**A DESIRE TO HONOR AND GLORIFY GOD IN ALL OF LIFE – ALL OF ONE'S ACTIONS AND CHOICES.**

## THIS WEEK:

Do you want to do the will of God?

**Pay attention to John's warning in 1 John 2:15-17!**

# ! WARNING! !

**Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you.**

For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world.

And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. **But if you do the will of God, you will live forever.**

1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)

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