

#21

KILLER SINS

Sin is like spiritual adultery.
Fight it!

FIGHTING SIN

+-----+

KILLER SIN

AND ALL THE OTHER TYPES OF SIN

Is THIS what it's all about?

MAYBE NOT

I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU AND SEND YOU TO HELL!



NO YOU'RE NOT!

BY THE TIME WE SIN, OTHER THINGS HAVE OCCURRED THAT MADE THE SIN POSSIBLE.



We should "push back the clock" and see what they are.

THE STARTING POINT: SINFUL DESIRES (CRAVINGS).

But **each person** is tempted when **he** is lured and enticed by **his own** desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

James 1:14-15 (ESV)

AN IMPORTANT OBSERVATION!

- You can't pass the blame to someone else.*
- It's **YOU** responding to **YOUR** desires/cravings.

~~IT'S MY PARENT'S FAULT!~~

~~GOD TEMPTED ME!~~

~~THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT!~~

~~SOCIETY IS TO BLAME!~~

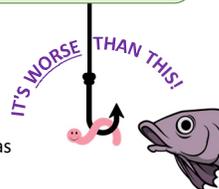
WHEN YOU PURSUE YOUR SINFUL DESIRES YOU ARE COMMITTING SPIRITUAL ADULTERY.

But each person is **tempted** when he is **lured** and **enticed** by his own desire. Then desire when it has **conceived** gives **birth** to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

James 1:14-15 (ESV)

AN IMPORTANT OBSERVATION!

- When we yield, it results in the conception and birth of sin.*
- We often like to describe temptation as bait on a hook... but *it's much worse!*



WHEN YOU COMMIT SPIRITUAL ADULTERY, YOU END UP WITH A "CHILD" NAMED SIN.

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to **sin**, and **sin** when it is **fully grown** brings forth **death**.

James 1:14-15 (ESV)

I WILL KILL YOU!

AN IMPORTANT OBSERVATION!

- *That child will grow up and will turn on you (its parent) and **KILL** you.*
- **But it all started with a sinful craving – the **killer sin**, "I CRAVE."**



SPIRITUAL

ADULTERY? **YES!**

Any time you desire something in this world more than you desire God, you are committing spiritual adultery.

WHEN SCRIPTURE REFERS THE CONCEPT OF "SPIRITUAL ADULTERY," it refers to people who CLAIM to belong to God, but who follow the ways of the world.

OLD TESTAMENT

But like a woman **unfaithful to her husband**, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 3:20 (NIV)

Adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband!

Ezekiel 16:32 (ESV)

Describing Israel's response to God.

NEW TESTAMENT

"An evil and **adulterous** generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; ..."

Matthew 12:39B (NASB)

They had already been given many signs, and had rejected them all.

Scripture also uses the concepts of "**husband**" and "**bride**" to describe the proper relationship between God and his people.

For your Maker is your **husband**, the LORD of hosts is his name; ...

Isaiah 54:5a (ESV)

For the wedding of the Lamb [=Jesus] has come, and his **bride** [=church] has made herself ready.

Rev. 19:7b (NIV)

No FAKE "Christians" here!

WHEN YOU PURSUE YOUR SINFUL DESIRES YOU ARE COMMITTING SPIRITUAL ADULTERY.

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from **your desires** that battle within you? **You want something** but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what **you want**. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because **you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures**.

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? **Anyone** who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes **an enemy of God**.

James 4:1-4 (NIV)

Scripture uses this concept because there are **STRONG PARALLELS BETWEEN**

**WHAT HAPPENS
IN PHYSICAL
ADULTERY**

AND

**WHAT HAPPENS
IN SPIRITUAL
ADULTERY**

THERE ARE ALSO PARALLELS IN HOW TO RESPOND.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND when cravings want us to commit SPIRITUAL ADULTERY?

What God says about physical adultery
can teach us how to respond.
(Since there are strong parallels between the two.)

The book of PROVERBS can illustrate this!

PRINCIPLES WE LEARN FROM WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT PHYSICAL ADULTERY:

(These can teach us how to respond to spiritual adultery.)

PHYSICAL

This is the way of an adulteress:
she eats and wipes her mouth*
and says, "I've done nothing wrong."

Proverbs 30:20 (CSB)

* (This symbolically represents what
she does – her sexual appetite.)

SPIRITUAL

You can't reason with
cravings. They will
always make excuses
to justify themselves.

PHYSICAL

For the lips of an adulteress drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil.

But in the end she is as bitter as
wormwood,
and as sharp as a double-edged sword.

Proverbs 5:3-4 (ISV)

But the man who commits adultery is an
utter fool, for he destroys his own soul.

Proverbs 6:32 (NLT)

The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit;
he who is under the Lord's wrath will fall into it.

Proverbs 22:14 (NIV)

SPIRITUAL

Giving-in to cravings
may be enjoyable;
but ultimately, it's
deadly, foolish, and
self-destructive.
Those under God's
judgment are the
ones who choose to
do it.

PHYSICAL

My son, keep my words
and store up my commands within you.

Keep my commands and you will live;
guard my teachings as the apple of your
eye.

Bind them on your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart.

Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"
and call understanding your kinsman;
they will keep you from the adulteress,
from the wayward wife with her
seductive words.

Proverbs 7:1-5 (NIV)

SPIRITUAL

Wisdom from God
(i.e., Scripture)
will protect you.

[Wisdom is
"knowledge properly
applied." It involves:
1) knowing what is
right, and 2) doing
what is right.]

PHYSICAL

... a simpleminded young man who lacked
common sense. ...

The woman approached him, dressed
seductively and sly of heart.

So she seduced him with her pretty
speech. With her flattery she enticed him.

He followed her at once, like an ox going to
the slaughter or like a trapped stag,
awaiting the arrow that would pierce its
heart. He was like a bird flying into a snare,
little knowing it would cost him his life.

Proverbs 7:7b, 10, 21-23 (NLT)

SPIRITUAL

It's the one who
lacks this wisdom
from God, who
will yield.

PHYSICAL

Keep to a path far from her,
do not go near the door of her house, ...

Proverbs 5:8 (NIV)

So now, sons, listen to me,
and pay attention to the words I speak.
Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways—
do not wander into her pathways;
for she has brought down many fatally wounded,
and all those she has slain are many.

Her house is the way to the grave,
going down to the chambers of death.

Proverbs 7:24-27 (NET)

SPIRITUAL

The wise person's
response will be
totally different.

IMPORTANT TO REALIZE!

There is a difference between
TEMPTATION and SIN.

TEMPTATION

occurs when desires present themselves.

HERE I AM!

I'M COMING!

SIN

occurs when we say "yes" to the desires.

Jesus was TEMPTED without SIN!

The book of Hebrews describes **Jesus as our High Priest**, and tells us...

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been **tempted in every way as we are**, yet **without sin**.

Hebrews 4:15 (CSB)

TEMPTATION?
100% YES

SIN?
100% NO

Jesus showed how to prevent SIN!

The way **HE** responded to temptation can teach **US** how to respond and not sin!

EXAMPLE #1 – JESUS CHOSE TO FOLLOW SCRIPTURE.*

The tempter came and said to him, ... [a temptation is then given].

Jesus answered, "**It is written**, ..." [he quotes the Scripture he will obey].

(Three times in Matthew 4:1-11)

* [He also learned Scripture, so he would know what it said!]

EXAMPLE #2 – JESUS CHOSE TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL.

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet **I want your will**, not mine."

Luke 22:42 (NLT)

EXAMPLE #3 – JESUS RECOGNIZED THE SPIRITUAL FORCE BEHIND TEMPTATION.

[WHEN PETER TEMPTED JESUS TO NOT GO TO THE CROSS]

[Jesus] rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, **Satan!**" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Mark 8:33 (NIV)

THIS WEEK:

Be ENCOURAGED:

The mere fact that you are tempted doesn't mean you are guilty of sinning!

Be CAREFUL:

Are you **CHOOSING** to turn temptation into sin?
Are you committing spiritual adultery?

Credits (1)

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- Quote from Matthew 4:1-11 – a summary; no specific translation.

Credits (2)

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