

#22

KILLER SINS

Fighting sin by fighting
the source of sin.

LAST WEEK We saw that Scripture describes yielding to one's sinful desires (cravings) as an act of "spiritual adultery."

- The result of this adultery (= the consequences of yielding to desire) is described as "conception" and "birth."

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)

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

DO YOU CRAVE/DESIRE ...

ANYTHING

... MORE THAN YOU CRAVE/DESIRE GOD?

IF YOU DO ANY OF THESE THINGS AND CLAIM TO BELONG TO GOD ...

Scripture says
you are **GUILTY** of

SPIRITUAL ADULTERY.

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

Do you make excuses?
Do you divide life into "compartments"?

"SURE, I MIGHT PUT..."

- ... SPORTS FIRST IN MY "SPORTS" LIFE.
- ... WORK FIRST IN MY "WORK" LIFE.
- ... POLITICS FIRST IN MY "POLITICAL" LIFE.
- ... ENTERTAINMENT FIRST IN MY "ENTERTAINMENT" LIFE.
- ... FOOD FIRST IN MY "FOOD" LIFE.
- ... **GOD** FIRST IN MY "SPIRITUAL" LIFE.

"BUT I'M OK BECAUSE I PUT..."

GUESS WHAT!!

God does not divide life into "compartments"!

"I MUST PUT..."

- ... **GOD** FIRST IN MY "SPORTS" LIFE.
- ... **GOD** FIRST IN MY "WORK" LIFE.
- ... **GOD** FIRST IN MY "POLITICAL" LIFE.
- ... **GOD** FIRST IN MY "ENTERTAINMENT" LIFE.
- ... **GOD** FIRST IN MY "FOOD" LIFE.
- ... **GOD** FIRST IN MY "SPIRITUAL" LIFE.

"IN ADDITION TO PUTTING..."

This is why Scripture says...

Whether, then, you eat or drink or **whatever you do**, do all to the glory of God.
1 Cor. 10:31 (NASB)

Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Col. 3:17 (GW)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ...
Col. 3:23 (NIV)

LAST WEEK'S SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO SPIRITUAL ADULTERY WAS TO RESPOND THE SAME WAY WE SHOULD TOWARD PHYSICAL ADULTERY.

<p style="text-align: center;">PHYSICAL</p> <p>[Response to the adulteress who tempts someone to commit physical adultery.]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, ... Proverbs 5:8 (NIV)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways—do not wander into her pathways; ... Proverbs 7:25 (NET)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SPIRITUAL</p> <p>[Apply these principles to the cravings that want us to commit spiritual adultery.]</p>
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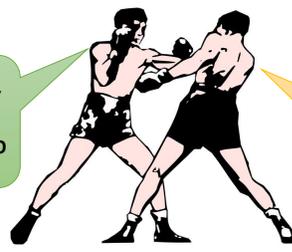
THOSE VERSES TELL US TO "KEEP AWAY" AND "AVOID."

BUT AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO STAND OUR GROUND AND FIGHT SIN?

AFTER ALL, SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT SINFUL CRAVINGS ARE FIGHTING US!

... sinful desires, which **war** against your soul.
1 Peter 2:11b (NIV)

THE ISSUE: Is THIS how we are to deal with sin?



[SIN] I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU AND SEND YOU TO HELL!

[US] NO YOU'RE NOT!

IT IS TRUE THAT WE ARE IN A "CONFLICT."
(As we see in Galatians 5.)

For the sinful nature ... and the Spirit ... are **in conflict** with each other, so that you do not do what you want.
Galatians 5:17 (NIV)

BUT 1 PETER 2:11 DOESN'T TELL US TO FIGHT CRAVINGS!

CONTEXT: Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to **abstain** from sinful desires, which war against your soul.
1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)

ANOTHER VERSE ABOUT SINFUL DESIRES THAT "WAR" (OR "BATTLE") WITHIN US
(They try to control us, and cause all kinds of trouble.)

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that **battle** within you?
James 4:1 (NIV)

BUT NOTHING IN THE PASSAGE TELLS US TO FIGHT THEM BACK!

[Verse 7 tells us to resist the **devil** (a concept that we will look at later).]

ONE VERSE MENTIONS "STRUGGLING WITH SIN."

In your **struggle** against sin ...
Hebrews 12:4a (ESV) *

BUT THE COMMAND IS TO **ENDURE!**

CONTEXT:

* This verse probably refers to their response to persecution. They were **struggling** to have the right response.

Consider [Jesus] who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

In your **struggle** against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

... you have to **endure**.
Hebrews 12:3-4, 7b (ESV)

SOME VERSES MENTION A "FIGHT" ...

- They refer to fighting **for** the faith, and sometimes **against** false teaching (which is an attack on the faith).

#1

... that ... you may fight the good fight, ...
1 Tim. 1:18b (NIV)

CONTEXT:

... fight the good fight, **holding on to faith and a good conscience**.

1 Tim. 1:18b-19a (NIV)

(ALSO: Related to opposing false teachers (v. 3-4).)

#2

Fight the good fight, ...
1 Tim. 6:12a (NASB)

CONTEXT:

Fight the good fight of **faith**; take hold of the **eternal life** to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Tim. 6:12 (NASB)

#3

I have fought the good fight.
2 Tim. 4:7a (GW)

CONTEXT:

I have fought the good fight. I have completed the race. **I have kept the faith**.

2 Tim. 4:7 (GW)

IN ALL THIS, WE DO **NOT** FIGHT THE **WORLD'S** WAY!

For though we live in the world, we do not wage **war** as the world does.

The **weapons** we **fight** with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to **demolish** strongholds.

We **demolish** arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we **take captive** every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Cor. 10:3-5 (NIV)

SOME VERSES TELL US TO "RESIST" OR "STAND OUR GROUND" ...

BUT WHO ARE WE TO RESIST?

THESE VERSES MENTION **SPIRITUAL FORCES**, NOT SIN!

(They also show us that our success is due to **God and his power**.)

#1

Resisting the spiritual forces of evil, using armor that comes from **GOD**.

For our **struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.

For this reason, take up **the full armor of God** so that you may be able to **stand your ground** on the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand**.

Ephes. 6:12-13 (NET)

[See v. 14-18a. Verse 14 begins a description of this armor.]

#2 Resisting the devil... associated with humility and submission to God.

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the **humble**."

Submit yourselves, then, to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:6b-7 (NIV)

#3 Resisting the devil... associated with standing firm in the faith.

Your opponent the devil ... Be firm in **the faith** and **resist** him, ...

1 Peter 5:8b, 9a (GW)

"The faith" refers to the **truth** found in Scripture.

SOME VERSES TELL US TO "GUARD" THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE.

(This includes *opposition* to false teaching.)

Timothy, **guard** the Good News which has been entrusted to you.

Turn away from pointless discussions and the claims of false knowledge that people use to oppose {the Christian faith}.

1 Tim. 6:20 (GW)

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

2 Tim. 1:13-14 (NIV)

WE ARE ALSO TO GUARD OURSELVES AGAINST ANY FALSE PERCEPTION OF GOD (= "IDOL").

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know the true one.

We are in the true one—that is, in his Son Jesus Christ.

He is the true God and eternal life.

Little children, **guard** yourselves from idols.

1 Jn 5:20-21 (CSB)

If we are in the one who is true, we will **guard** ourselves against what is false.

OK ...WE ARE TO:

- ✓ **FIGHT FOR THE FAITH,***
- ✓ **RESIST THE DEVIL, AND**
- ✓ **GUARD THE TRUTH ...**

BUT WHAT WORDS CHARACTERIZE OUR RESPONSE TO SIN?

FIND OUT NEXT WEEK!

*** (INCLUDES FIGHTING AGAINST FALSE TEACHING)**

THIS WEEK:

FOCUS ON:

FIGHTING... RESISTING ... GUARDING
In the way **SCRIPTURE** teaches us.

If we do these things...

We will already be on the way to a right response to sin!

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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