

#23

# KILLER SINS

Fighting sin by running from it.

The issue: Do we FIGHT sin?  
Or respond some other way?

[SIN]

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

[US]

NO YOU'RE NOT!

### CONCEPTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE "FIGHTING" WORDS

FACTS:

(These contain NO commands that require action by us.)

- ✓ **CONFLICT** – There is a conflict between the sinful nature (flesh) and the Spirit. (Galatians 5:17)
- ✓ **WAR/BATTLE** – Sinful desires war against us. (1 Peter 2:11; also James 4:1)
- ✓ **STRUGGLE** – We may struggle in knowing how to correctly respond to sin. (Hebrews 12:4; possibly referring to the sin of others.)

TAKEN IN CONTEXT:      **FACTS** are to influence our **THINKING**;  
**COMMANDS** are to influence our **ACTIONS**.

### COMMANDS:

(These require us to DO something.)

- ✓ **FIGHT** – We are to fight for the faith – the truths of God's Word – and oppose false teaching. (1 Timothy 1:18-19; 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7) We are to do it God's way, not the world's way. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
- ✓ **RESIST** – We are to resist the devil and other evil spiritual forces; we must do so with God's power, a right relationship with God, and grounded in his Word. (Ephesians 6:12-13; James 4:6b-7; 1 Peter 5:8-9)
- ✓ **GUARD** – We are to guard the truth of Scripture – and this includes opposing false teaching. (1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:13-14) We must also guard ourselves from false views about God – "idols." (1 John 5:20-21)

### NO VERSE COMMANDS US TO "FIGHT" SIN!

(or anything similar to that)

- In God's power, we are to resist the ultimate source of sin – the powers of darkness.
- As for the sin itself, Scripture tells us to have a different type of response.

IF "FIGHTING" WORDS DON'T CHARACTERIZE OUR RESPONSE TO SIN, THEN WHAT WORDS DO?

IT MAY SURPRISE YOU, BUT IT'S WORDS THAT INVOLVE AVOIDANCE AND RUNNING AWAY!

WE ARE ALSO TOLD TO REPLACE SIN WITH GODLY CONDUCT!

**WE MUST AVOID SIN.**  
(Keep away from it, abstain from it, etc.)

**#1** EVERY KIND OF EVIL  
**Keep away** from every kind of evil.  
 1 Thes. 5:22 (GW)

**#2** SINFUL DESIRES (CRAWINGS)  
 Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to **abstain** from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.  
 1 Peter 2:11 (CSB)

**#3** SEXUAL SIN  
 For this is God's will: ... that you **keep away** from sexual immorality, ...  
 1 Th 4:3 (NET)

**GOD DOESN'T REALLY MEAN THAT, DOES HE?** **GUESS AGAIN!**

... the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. / Anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human rules but is rejecting God, ...  
 1 Thes. 4:6b, 8a (NLT)

**WE MUST RUN FROM SIN.**  
(Flee from it, abstain from it, etc.)

- These verses tell us not only what to run **FROM**; but they tell us what to run **TO**.

**WE ARE NOT TO RUN "AIMLESSLY" FROM SIN, BUT "PURPOSEFULLY" TOWARD SOMETHING RIGHTEOUS!**

**#1** IDOLATRY (false gods)  
 Therefore, my dear friends, **flee from** idolatry.  
 1 Cor. 10:14 (LEB)

**[RUN TO...] SHARING IN CHRIST'S BODY/BLOOD**

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a **participation** in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a **participation** in the body of Christ?  
 1 Cor. 10:16 (LEB)

**CONTEXT AND PARALLEL CONCEPTS:**  
 Food offered to idols represents participation with demons.  
 >> **IN CONTRAST** <<  
 The cup of blessing and the broken bread represent participation in the body of Christ.

**#2** FALSE DOCTRINE and the LOVE OF MONEY  
 If anyone teaches false doctrine ... / ... those who want to be rich ... / ... the love of money ...  
 1 Timothy 6:3a, 9a, 10a (CSB)

Such people have many sinful character traits, as shown in v. 3-10.

But you, man of God, **flee from** these things, ...  
 1 Timothy 6:11a (CSB)

**[RUN TO...] GODLY CONDUCT**

... **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called ...  
 1 Timothy 6:11b-12 (CSB)

**#3** YOUTHFUL DESIRES (CRAWINGS)  
**Flee** the evil desires of youth, ...  
 2 Tim. 2:22a (NIV)

**[RUN TO...] GODLY CONDUCT**

... **pursue** righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.  
 2 Tim. 2:22b (NIV)

**#4** SEXUAL SIN  
**Run away** from sexual sin!  
 1 Cor. 6:18a (NLT)

**[RUN TO...] HONORING GOD**

So you must **honor** God with your body.  
 1 Cor. 6:20b (NLT)

**WE MUST REPLACE SIN**  
with God-honoring conduct.

Many Scripture passages tell us to:

**STOP** one thing and  
**START** another.

WE WILL LOOK AT SOME OF THESE AT A DIFFERENT TIME.

**IMPORTANT  
TO  
REALIZE!**

If you are following Jesus,  
you can overcome temptation.

**You don't have to sin!**

**GOD guarantees it!**

No temptation has come upon you except what  
is common to humanity.

**But God is faithful;** he will not allow you to be  
tempted beyond what you are able,  
but with the temptation he will also provide a  
way out so that you may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (CSB)

**GOD:** He limits the intensity of the temptation.  
He provides a way out. (Though it may  
require "bearing it" for a while.)

You are NOT being tempted above what is  
NORMAL for people!

No temptation has come upon you except what is  
**common to humanity.** ...

1 Corinthians 10:13a (CSB)

- **YOU are not so extraordinary** that the devil gives you special attention.
- **GOD is not so weak** that he can't put limits on the temptation.

We cannot **escape** experiencing temptation ...

[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are  
sure to come, ...

Luke 17:1(ESV)

But we **can** escape the sin!

**We don't have to sin!**

THEN WHY DOESN'T IT  
WORK FOR ME?

We'll look at that issue next time.

But for now, here's a hint:  
*The problem isn't God.*

**GOD remains faithful...**

**What about US?**

**Keep away** from every kind of evil.

1 Thes. 5:22 (GW)

**Flee** the evil desires of youth, ...

2 Tim. 2:22a (NIV)

**OH WOW!**

**THAT SIN LOOKS  
SO-O-O EXCITING!**

## YOUR MISSION THIS WEEK:

**FOCUS ON: RUNNING!**

**"Getting away" from temptation:**

**(1) Avoid it (don't run to it).**

**(2) Run from it.**



**This running is the best exercise in the world,  
and will eliminate many opportunities to sin!**



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