

#42

KILLER SINS

"I devour" & "I cling"
Comparisons

BASIC CONTRASTS BETWEEN

"I CRAVE"
(our previous topic)

and

"I DEVOUR" (or "consume")
and **"I CLING"**
(our new topic)

Concept →	I CRAVE	I DEVOUR & I CLING
When it occurs:	<u>Before</u> we get what we desire.	<u>After</u> we get what we desire.
Focus of Scripture passages:	In many directions – God, people, things of the world, personal interests, sin, etc.	Mainly on things of this world – rather than on God and spiritual matters.
Moral quality (good, evil, etc.):	They can refer to something good or evil. Or they can be "neutral," with the significance being determined by the context.	They tend to emphasize things that are not good (often describing things taken in excess.)
A killer sin?	Sometimes, but can also refer to something good.	Quite often.

Can the concepts of
"DEVOURING" ("consuming") and **"CLINGING"**
be used to describe good things?

>> Perhaps sometimes. <<

[Jesus'] disciples remembered that it was written,
"Zeal for your house will **consume** me."
John 2:17 (ESV)

(We will have to examine this issue further.
In this specific verse, it's the zeal that is doing the consuming.)

"I DEVOUR" and "I CLING"
tend to have a greater focus on excess
or misplaced focus.

+
[excess] Taking what is good and taking it to excess – too much of a good thing, thus making it not good.

-
[misplaced focus] Pursuing something of lesser importance in place of something more important – an expression of wrong priorities (de-emphasizing the more important).

BECAUSE OF THIS,
MOST SCRIPTURE REFERENCES TO THESE CONCEPTS
DESCRIBE THEM AS **SIN**.

"I DEVOUR" and "I CLING"
tend to have a greater focus on **SELF**,
rather than the glory 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)

- > "Whatever" applies to everything in life!
- > If it's not done for the glory of God, it is sin!!!

RARELY, IF EVER,
ARE "I DEVOUR" AND "I CLING" AN EXPRESSION OF **LOVE**
FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR!

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN

"I DEVOUR" (or "consume")

and

"I CLING"

- ### SIMILARITIES BETWEEN "I DEVOUR (CONSUME)" AND "I CLING"
- Both involve excess, not sharing, lack of satisfaction, etc. The end result is "I WANT MORE!"
 - There are often parallels in how they are done, their consequences and their condemnations.
 - As with all "killer sins," they imply taking one's eyes off God (though it's not always immediately obvious).

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO "KILLER SINS"

Killer Sin →	I DEVOUR (or consume)	I CLING
Type of "excess":	Consuming	Accumulating
"Lifestyle":	Prodigal (wasteful) living	Materialism
Pursuit of:	Satisfaction and pleasure (especially when used)	Security (especially when attained and kept)
Character flaw or sin:	Lack of satisfaction	Lack of trust
Similar to which of the "7 Deadly Sins"?	Gluttony	Greed



DO WE COMMIT THE KILLER SINS "I DEVOUR" AND "I CLING" AND THEN MAKE EXCUSES FOR OUR ACTIONS, BY CALLING THE THINGS WE RECEIVE "BLESSINGS FROM GOD"?

Our "FOCUS": An Important Issue!

No one can serve two masters ...
Matthew 6:24a (NASB)



I WANT TO STOP SINNING, BUT I KEEP DOING IT!



Giving-in to "I DEVOUR" and "I CLING" may reinforce our cravings *even if we get no enjoyment from the cravings themselves!*



* WE CAN'T HAVE TWO "#1'S"! *

KEY ISSUE: SOMETHING HAS TO BE "#1" IN LIFE.

1. IF IT'S GOD: We will be blessed in many ways.

Everything belongs to you. Whether it is [godly leaders], the world, life or death, present or future things, everything belongs to you.

You belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

1 Cor. 3:21b-23 (GW)

2. IF IT'S ANYTHING ELSE – EVEN GOD'S BLESSINGS: We will be guilty of sin.

GETTING WHAT WE DESIRE IS NOT ALWAYS A BLESSING.

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

Rev. 3:17 (NIV)

But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel.

In the desert they gave in to their craving; in the wasteland they put God to the test.

So he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease upon them.

Psalms 106:13-15 (NIV)

If GOD'S GLORY is not #1 in our lives, WE MAY TURN BLESSINGS INTO KILLER SINS, with eternal consequences.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets."

Luke 6:24-26 (NIV)

YES, WE SHOULD REJOICE IN GOD'S BLESSINGS!

1. But this is only possible if we maintain "kingdom values."

The values of Jesus and the "kingdom of God."

2. Don't turn blessings into an opportunity for DEVOURING and CLINGING!

Don't be controlled by blessings (or they cease to be "blessings").

AS JESUS SAID...

Blessings? YES!

"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields--and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.

But our focus will have consequences!

But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Mark 10:29-31 (NIV)

This week...



Consider the three Killer Sins we have examined... and your response to them.



- Do you take seriously the killer sins "I DEVOUR" and "I CLING"?
- If not, you may be weak in your battle against the Killer Sin "I CRAVE."

Victory over "I CRAVE" requires a willingness to also fight these other two Killer Sins.

Credits (1)

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