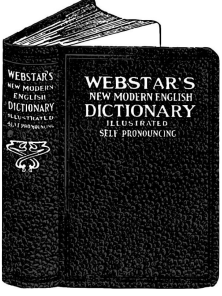


#11

# KILLER SINS

"I Crave" in a  
BAD sense

To begin, we need to  
**DEFINE** an issue.



Scripture often mentions the concept of "**FLESH**," when referring to someone's **CRAVES** or **DESIRES**.

What does this concept mean?

**EXAMPLE:**

... the lust [= desire, craving] of the **flesh** ...

1 John 2:16b (NASB)

In some passages...

- A Bible translation may use the phrase "sinful nature" (or equivalent), instead.

... and those who are in the **flesh** cannot please God.

Romans 8:8 (NASB)

SAME AS:

Those controlled by the **sinful nature** cannot please God.

Romans 8:8 (NIV)

- Yet there are other times when "flesh" definitely refers to the "body" or a physical part of us.

That which is born of the **flesh** is **flesh**, ...

John 3:6a (NASB)

The "FLESH" – does it mean "BODY"?

- YES** – When the context indicates that it means "BODY."
- NO** – When the context indicates something else.

**"FLESH" MAY REFER TO:**

- ✓ The whole body.
- ✓ Part of the body (meat, skin, etc.)
- ✓ All living creatures (collectively)
- ✓ Blood relatives
- ✓ Human weakness (as contrasted with God's power)
- ✓ The material part of a person (as opposed to "spirit")
- ✓ The sinful nature (which we inherit from Adam)
- ✓ Etc.

= OUR FOCUS

## Is the "BODY" sinful?

(Some false religions say it is.)

- The sinful nature often uses the **BODY** to express itself.
  - It also influences the MIND (thoughts and attitude).

>> HOWEVER <<

- Scripture does not say that the **BODY** itself is sinful.
  - When Jesus took on a body, he remained without sin.
  - God's people look forward to a physical resurrection of the body.

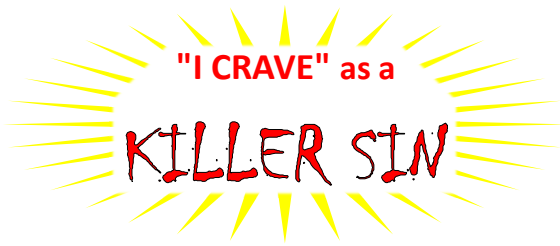
## What about the "SINFUL NATURE"?

- In Adam, the human race chose to sin.
  - Sinning became part of human nature.
  - Every human since that time has inherited this nature (and if unsaved, will perish because of it).

>> HOWEVER <<

- In Christ, this sin nature is conquered.
  - God's gives his people a new nature.
  - The Spirit of God gives his people the desire and the ability to fight the old (sinful) nature.
  - When Jesus returns, all influences of the sinful nature will be totally removed from us.

TODAY, we are introducing:



But we need to remember our  
**STARTING POINT.**



## **GOOD CRAVING -**

This is the ONLY type of craving we would have had, if sin had not entered the world.

> SINFUL CRAVING would have never been considered an option.



**BEFORE SIN**

But now, sin has  
**penetrated**  
our hearts and minds.

- Sinning has become human nature. It is now natural to:

- ↳ **CRAVE** what is sinful, corrupt, and distorted.
- ↳ **NOT CRAVE** what is righteous and truly good.

Even saved people started this way.

All of us used to live that way, ...  
We were born with an evil nature, ...

Ephes. 2:3 (NLT)

## **SINFUL CRAVING** comes in 2 forms ...

- A DISTORTION of a good craving...  
It's **COUNTERFEIT**.
- The OPPOSITE of a good craving...  
It's **OPPONENT**.

>> HOWEVER <<

★ NEVER is it an expression of  
LOVE for God and neighbor! ★

And as we look at

"I CRAVE" as a  
**KILLER SIN,**

**WE NEED TO REMEMBER  
WHAT GOD HAS DONE!**

★ We do not need to be a victim! ★

Through  
Jesus Christ  
our nature  
can be changed!

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Cor 5:21 (NIV)

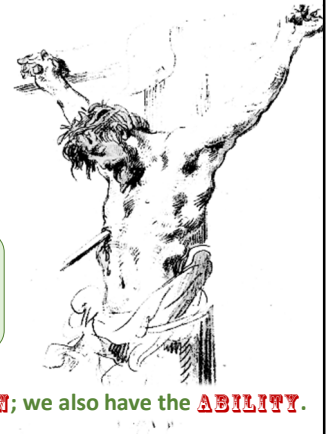


### The RESULTS?

Those with a  
changed nature  
can, must, and will  
live **differently**.

Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:3 (NIV)



We have the **OBLIGATION**; we also have the **ABILITY**.

**THOSE WHO  
BELONG TO GOD**  
have an  
**OBLIGATION**

★ **TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY!** ★

It's our  
"CALLING,"  
our  
**OBLIGATION**

**THIS**

For you were **called** to be free, brothers; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the **flesh**, but serve one another through love.

I say then, walk [= live] by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the **flesh**.

Galatians 5:13, 16 (HCSB)

**NOT THIS**

So, brothers and sisters, we have **no obligation** to live the way our **corrupt nature** wants us to live.

If you live by your corrupt nature, you are going to die.

But if you use your spiritual nature to put to death the evil activities of the body, you will live.

Romans 8:12-13 (GW)

"corrupt nature"  
= "FLESH"

It's an  
**OBLIGATION...**  
**KILL THE ONE**

Therefore, put to death what belongs to your worldly nature: ...

Colossians 3:5a (HCSB)

[ A "worldly" nature, as opposed to our nature in Christ, who is "above" in heaven. ]

**PUT  
ON THE OTHER**

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the **sinful nature**.

Romans 13:14 (NIV)

"sinful nature"  
= "FLESH"

... and a **FACT**.

Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the **flesh** with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:24 (NET)

**THOSE WHO  
BELONG TO GOD**  
have the  
**ABILITY**

★ **TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY!** ★

## Because of the CROSS:

### THE OLD POWER IS GONE:

Our old sinful selves were **crucified** with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives.

We are ***no longer slaves*** to sin.

Romans 6:6 (NLT)

### WE BREAK WITH THE WORLD:

... the **cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been **crucified** to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14b (NET)

### WE HAVE A NEW POWER:

I have been **crucified** with Christ and I no longer live, but ***Christ lives in me***.

The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:19b-20 (HCSB)

## A CHANGE OCCURRED!

### WHAT YOU WERE:

All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature.

### HOW YOU CHANGED:

We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else.

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.

### WHO GETS THE CREDIT:

(It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!)

Ephes. 2:3-5 (NLT)

## The end result: A new controlling power!

You, however, are controlled not by the **sinful nature** but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.

Romans 8:9a (NIV)

### IT TOOK A "SPIRITUAL SURGERY" TO ACCOMPLISH IT:

When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure—the cutting away of your **sinful nature**.

You were dead because of your sins and because your **sinful nature** was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins.

Col. 2:11, 13 (NLT)

## THIS WEEK:

*[If you are following Jesus]*

**LIVE** the life you have been given!

=====

*[If you are still living the way of a spiritually dead person]*

**Turn to Jesus so that you can (and will) LIVE!**

## Credits (1)

### SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" – Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. ([www.newlivingtranslation.com](http://www.newlivingtranslation.com))
- Scriptures marked "NIV" – Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. ([www.zondervanbibles.com](http://www.zondervanbibles.com))
- Scriptures marked "GW" – Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®, Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "NASB" – Scriptures quoted from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))
- Scriptures marked "NET" – Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "HCSB" – Scripture quotations marked HCSB are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Skull and crossbones – Pearson Scott Foresman [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Skull\\_and\\_crossbones\\_vector.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Skull_and_crossbones_vector.svg)

## Credits (2)

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Dictionary – j4p4n [Public domain]; via [openclipart.org](https://openclipart.org/detail/271812/dictionary): <https://openclipart.org/detail/271812/dictionary>
- Garden of Eden – Thomas Cole [Public domain]; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thomas\\_Cole\\_The\\_Garden\\_of\\_Eden\\_detail\\_Amon\\_Carter\\_Museum.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thomas_Cole_The_Garden_of_Eden_detail_Amon_Carter_Museum.jpg)
- Arrow – bpcomp [Public domain]; via [openclipart.org](https://openclipart.org/detail/26210/pierced-heart): <https://openclipart.org/detail/26210/pierced-heart>
- Jesus on cross – Eugene Delacroix [Public domain]; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Eug%C3%A9ne\\_Delacroix\\_-\\_Christ\\_on\\_the\\_Cross\\_-\\_WGA0248.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Eug%C3%A9ne_Delacroix_-_Christ_on_the_Cross_-_WGA0248.jpg)
- Presentation – Dennis Hinks © 2018.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree, some might not.