

#13

# KILLER SINS

The *sinful* form  
of "I Crave" (2)



REMEMBER THIS WARNING ABOUT  
**KILLER SINS...**

YOU CAN IGNORE KILLER SINS, IF YOU WANT...

BUT KILLER SINS WILL NOT IGNORE YOU.  
THEY WILL KILL YOU. **FOREVER.**

(You won't be "Resting in Peace.")

**But REMEMBER THIS also!**

**There is HOPE  
for those who are following Jesus!**

[ AS WE SAW LAST WEEK ]

The contrast between  
"NOT FOLLOWING" and "FOLLOWING"...

[ "NOT FOLLOWING" vs. "FOLLOWING" ... ]

Those who are NOT following Jesus:

- They are slaves to sinful cravings/desires. (They won't always recognize them as "sin.")
- Some may look "saved" for a while; but they eventually turn back to the pursuit of those desires.

They are darkened in their understanding ...  
Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Ephes. 4:18a,19 (NIV)

**REFERS TO SINFUL CRAVING**

[ "NOT FOLLOWING" vs. "FOLLOWING"... ]



Those who ARE following Jesus:

- They are **NOT** slaves to sinful craving/desires. (They have a new master.)
- (Even so, fighting those sinful desires is a lifelong endeavor.)

But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God.

Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.

Romans 6:22 (NLT)

➤ **LAST TIME:** The first example: "sexual lust."

➤ **TODAY:**

A SECOND example of  
"I CRAVE" ... as a "KILLER SIN" ...



A CRAVING or INTENSE DESIRE for:



MONEY, RICHES, WEALTH.

- WE ARE **NOT** FOCUSING ON: Having or using wealth. (That's a separate issue.)
- OUR EMPHASIS IS ON: Desiring or craving or loving wealth. (Even poor people can be guilty of this.)

Whoever loves money will never be satisfied with money.

Eccles. 5:10a (GW)

BOTH RICH AND  
POOR PEOPLE CAN  
HAVE THIS PROBLEM!

CRAVING MONEY, RICHES AND WEALTH?

- We should follow Paul's godly example:

"I have never coveted anyone's money ..."

Acts 20:33a (NLT)

- We should pay attention to Paul's godly warning:

But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 (HCSB)

It's not just MONEY...

★ It's also the things money can  
buy!

Example: CLOTHES.

- [Again] We should follow Paul's godly example:

"I have not coveted anyone's ... clothing. "

Acts 20:33 (NLT)

It's not just MONEY...

★ It's also the things money can  
buy!

Example: "BABYLON'S FRUIT."

In the book of Revelation, the name "Babylon" is used in various places to represent the world of unsaved people – its values, its religious and political systems, and its economic system (and the things it offers). The following verses focus on the last of these perspectives.



- When God destroys Babylon's economic system, those who profited from it will mourn.

"The merchants of the earth cry and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargo anymore.

" 'The fruit you craved is gone. All your luxuries and your splendor have disappeared. No one will ever find them again.' "

Rev. 18:11, 14 (GW)

- God's people will rejoice!

"Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you."

Rev. 18:20 (NIV)

## WHAT CAUSES ?

THESE THINGS TO BECOME  
EXAMPLES OF SINFUL CRAVING?

- ❖ They aren't always sinful. (Scripture gives us examples of godly people who had money, clothes and possessions.)
- ❖ But they are sinful when: a person desires them more than he desires the things of God.

 The KEY ISSUE is this: 

If we desire any of these things  
**MORE THAN**  
we desire God and his kingdom,  
we are living in sin!

DO YOU THINK LIVING IN SIN IS REALLY AN  
OPTION FOR GOD'S PEOPLE? GUESS AGAIN!



There is a **BIG** difference between:

- > **ACCIDENTAL** sin (and repenting of it), and
- > **DELIBERATE** sin (and NOT repenting of it; and often not admitting it is sin).

But when people keep on sinning, it shows they belong to the Devil, who has been sinning since the beginning.

Those who have been born into God's family do not sin, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they have been born of God.

We know that those who have become part of God's family do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot get his hands on them.

1 John 3:8a, 9; 5:18 (NLT)

- ✓ Since we cannot serve both GOD and WEALTH, our ONLY non-sinful option is to **REPENT** every time we discover we've put "things" ahead of God.

ACCORDING TO JESUS:

"No one can serve two masters. He will hate the first master and love the second, or he will be devoted to the first and despise the second. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Matthew 6:24 (GW)

Do you think there's an "exception" to this warning?  
Focus on the highlighted words in the above verse.

- ✓ If we choose to focus on "things," instead of God, it means we have chosen to live like a godless person!

ACCORDING TO JESUS:

"So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things?

Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

Matthew 6:31-33 (NLT)

## THIS WEEK:

***Consider how much focus you have on  
wealth, money, possessions, etc.***

**Compare that to your focus on GOD.**

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**Who are you actually serving?**

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