



#18



# KILLER SINS



The "sometimes" form  
of "I Crave" – they  
don't stay "neutral."



**CRAVING or DESIRING something can be**  
1) good, 2) evil, or  
3) determined by other factors.



- ✓ ALWAYS Sinful and evil – this is a killer sin.
- ✓ Must first evaluate other factors – THE CONTEXT in which it occurs.
- ✓ ALWAYS Righteous and good – this is NOT a sin.

WE ARE LOOKING AT THE ISSUE OF

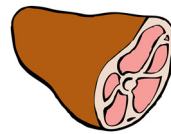
# CONTEXT

⇒ IT CAN INFLUENCE THE SIGNIFICANCE  
OF YOUR CRAVING!!!

LAST WEEK:



- We saw that **CRAVING MEAT** could occur in a sinful or righteous **CONTEXT**.
- The **CONTEXT** determined whether the craving itself was sinful or righteous.



- CRAVING MEAT could be a **SIN**:

... and the people of Israel also began to complain. "Oh, for some **meat**!" they exclaimed.

Numbers 11:4b (NLT)

**CONTEXT:** Questioning God's power, ungrateful for his provisions, putting him to the test, etc.

- CRAVING MEAT could be a **RIGHTEOUS ACT**:

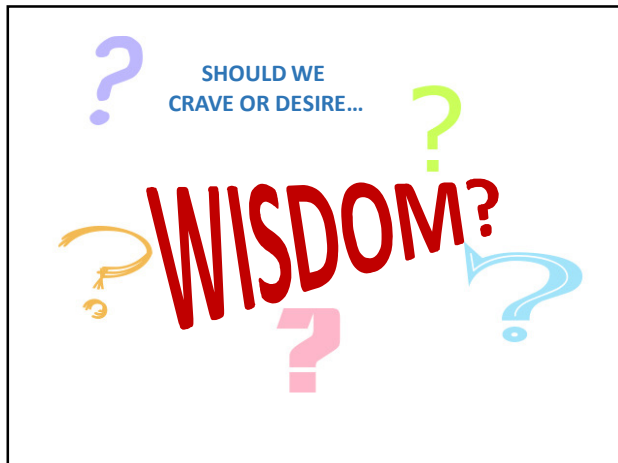
You may eat as many **animals** as the Lord your God gives you.

... you may eat **meat** whenever you **want**.

Deut. 12:15b, 20b (NLT)

**CONTEXT:** Rejoicing in God's provisions, his fulfilled promises, etc.

HERE ARE  
**MORE**  
**EXAMPLES**



- Normally, it's a very good thing!

For **wisdom** is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you **desire** can be compared with it.

Proverbs 8:11 (NLT)

- It's the moral fool who doesn't want wisdom!

It is senseless to pay tuition to educate a fool who has **no heart** for **wisdom**.

Proverbs 17:16 (NLT)

HE DOESN'T DESIRE IT

- But it's NOT good to gain wisdom by sinning!

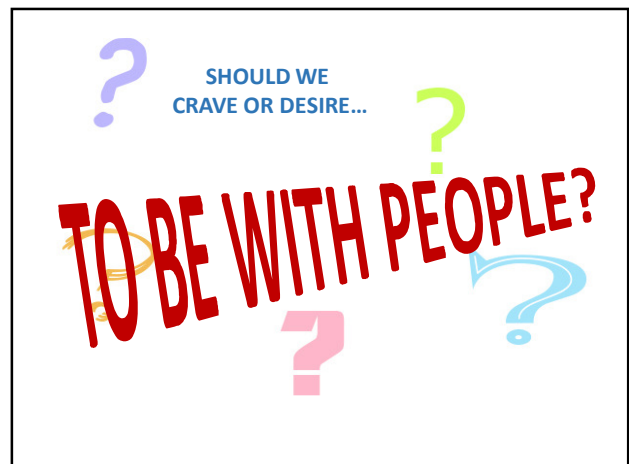
When the woman saw that the tree produced fruit that was good for food, was attractive to the eye, and was **desirable** for making one **wise**, she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of it to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.

Genesis 3:6 (NET)

➤ **GOD:** "Don't eat it."

➤ **SATAN:** "Eat it, and you'll become wise!"

➤ **EVE:** "I want that wisdom, and I'm willing to sin to get it!"



- Scripture often mentions the value of friendship!

But now Timothy has ... reported that you always have good memories of us, **wanting to see us**, as we also **want to see you**.

1 Thes. 3:6 (HCSB)

I **long to see you** so that ... you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

Romans 1:11-12 (NIV)

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

- Sometimes avoiding people is sin!

We should not stop **gathering together** with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming.

Hebrews 10:25 (GW)

- But it's sinful to desire the company of evil people!

Do not envy wicked men, do not **desire their company**; ...

Proverbs 24:1 (NIV)

"Bad **company** corrupts good character."

1 Cor. 15:33b (NIV)

? SHOULD WE CRAVE OR DESIRE... ?

**JESUS' RETURN?**


OR,

**"THE DAY OF THE LORD"?**

- God's people look forward to that day!

[The Lord will reward] all who **eagerly look forward to his glorious return.**

2 Tim. 4:8b (NLT)




- But if you only want him to come so that you can escape your problems, and that others can be punished... you're in for a big surprise.

Woe to you who **long for the Day of the LORD!**

What will **the Day of the LORD** be for you?  
It will be darkness and not light.

Amos 5:18 (HCSB)

[ These people were like the church-going fakes of today. ]



? SHOULD WE CRAVE OR DESIRE... ?


**DEATH?**

- God's people would like to be with Jesus even now.

*(Yet they are willing to remain here on earth until the time GOD chooses to bring them home.)*

[We] would **prefer** to be **away from the body** and at home with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8b (NET)



I **desire to depart and be with Christ**, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

Philip. 1:23b-24 (NIV)


- But people often desire death for the wrong reason.

(CONTEXT: UNREPENTANT PEOPLE DURING THE END TIMES JUDGMENTS.)

At that time people will **look for death** and never find it. They will **long to die**, but death will escape them.

Rev. 9:6 (GW)

[ They were experiencing judgment for sin, and didn't want to repent.  
They thought death would be a means to escape. ]




? SHOULD WE CRAVE OR DESIRE... ?

**THE NIGHT?**


- It may be good for a tired worker.

The **sleep** of the laborer is pleasant—  
whether he eats little or much ...  
Ecclesiastes 5:12 (NET)



- But some people desire nighttime for less-honorable reasons ...

Do not **long** for the cover of **night**  
to drag people away from their homes.  
Job 36:20 (NET)




? SHOULD WE CRAVE OR DESIRE... ?

# SIGNS & MIRACLES FROM GOD?



- The Old Testament said that signs were one of the means for verifying who was a true prophet.




You may wonder, 'How will we know whether the prophecy is from the Lord or not?'

If the prophet **predicts** something in the Lord's name and it does not happen, the Lord did not give the message. That prophet has spoken on his own and need not be feared.

Deut. 18:21-22 (NLT)

\* (The prophet's message also had to point people to the true God – see v. 20; 13:1-5.)

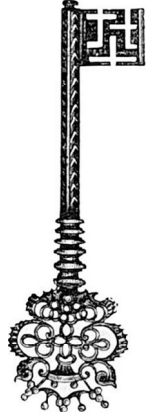
- But to reject the signs that have already been given, and to ask for more is a different matter!



But he replied to them, "An evil and adulterous generation **craves a sign**. Yet no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah, ...

Matthew 12:39 (ISV)

( See the previous chapters.  
They had already witnessed many signs and miracles! )



## HERE IS THE KEY ISSUE:

"NEUTRAL" cravings  
do NOT remain NEUTRAL.

CONTEXT  
turns them into either  
GOOD or EVIL.

It's NOT that **WE** decide to call them "good" or "evil."


RATHER:

**SCRIPTURE** defines them as "good" or "evil," based on the **CONTEXT**.

I WANT TO DO IT, SO I'M GOING TO CALL IT "GOOD."

I DON'T CARE WHAT **SCRIPTURE** SAYS.

BUT **SCRIPTURE** SAYS...



At the Day of Judgment,  
there will be no "NEUTRAL" category!

God will judge us for **EVERYTHING** we do, including  
every secret thing, whether GOOD or BAD.

Eccles. 12:14 (NLT)

NO "NEUTRAL"  
CATEGORY!

## THIS WEEK:

*Consider some of the "neutral"  
cravings/desires of your life.*

**How does the context**  
(the circumstances and issues related to those desires)  
**determine whether they are good or evil?**

*"Neutral" desires can quickly  
become sinful, when they are ...*

✓ **Associated with sin.**

✓ **An avoidance of obligations  
we don't want to fulfil.**

✓ **Chosen over more important  
desires.**

I DESIRE TO WATCH TV...  
ESPECIALLY PROGRAMS  
THAT GLORIFY SIN!

I DESIRE TO EXERCISE MY  
BODY... INSTEAD OF  
WORSHIPPING GOD WITH  
OTHER CHRISTIANS.

I DESIRE TO READ...  
ANYTHING BUT THE  
BIBLE!

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