

First of all, here are links to a couple of resources in which you may (or may not☺) be interested. The first link is to mp3 audio files of John Owen's "Of the Mortification of Sin" and the second is a free online printed copy of the same title. The printed version found at the second link can be a little confusing. Each page is scanned, so at the top of each section you will see a line above a title in all caps with a page number on either side of the title. This is actually the heading and page number of the work as it appears in vol. 6 of Owen's complete works. So when you see, "6 MORTIFICATION OF SIN IN A BELIEVER" just a few paragraphs into chapter 1, that is the header on page 6 of the complete works.

http://www.archive.org/details/mortification_of_sin_librivox

<http://www.reformed.org/master/index.html?mainframe=/books/owen/vol6/index.html>

Now here are some questions that will guide you through the rest of the week and prepare you for Sunday's sermon:

Read Gal. 6:14. (The immediate context of this verse is Paul's battle against those in Galatia who would require circumcision to be added to the work of Christ for salvation, but it provides for us an important truth concerning our fight against sin as well.)

Upon what should our mortification of sin be centered? Why should it be centered here? What does fighting sin in a "cross-centered" manner look like? In what else might we boast rather than the cross as we crucify our sin? How do we guard against boasting in these things rather than the cross?

Read Rom. 8:1-17. V. 1 tells us a very important truth with regard to our life as believers. What is that truth? How can Paul say this? (i.e. what is the "therefore" there for and what does the "now" mean in context?) How has this happened (v. 2-4)?

What are the two groups contrasted in vs. 5-11? Write down in separate columns all that is said about each one of these groups.

How does setting one's mind on the flesh equal death? How does setting one's mind on the Spirit equal life & peace? What is the mark of someone who lives in v. 13? What does this mean for believers to "put to death the deeds of the body?"

These verses in Romans 8 are not a "how to" guide for walking in the Spirit, but they are an evaluation of what walking in the Spirit should look like. How do you match up to what you have found? Are there signs of life & peace in you? In which group do you find yourself? Why?

Now let's turn to the "what does this look like?" question by **reading Gal. 5:16-26**.

What is the promise given to us in v. 16? Why is this important (v. 17)? Are there any other options than walking by the Spirit or by the flesh? Are you walking by the Spirit or by the flesh? How do you know (be specific, evaluating your life in light of these verses)? If you are walking by the flesh, what should you do?

After considering this list of "works of the flesh" found in vs. 19-21, spend some time in prayer asking God to reveal which of these works need to be crucified in your life and how he would have you begin this work today. What is at stake if you refuse to repent and kill your sin (v. 21)?

Re-read vs. 24-25. What do you notice about the verb tenses in these verses? How do these tenses help you understand what you must do in your Christian life? What is the active command in these verses? After your study of these verses, write 2 sentences or less explaining what it looks like to "walk by the Spirit."

Since it is true that we must kill our sin (Col. 3:5) because we have been crucified with Christ (Gal. 5:24, 6:14), how must we accomplish this? Several of the applications we will address on Sunday center around identifying and combating sin immediately, so with this in mind . . .

Read James 1:13-15. What is the progression James identifies in these verses? Is temptation, in and of itself, evil? What, according to James, does the enticing?

What are some sins that you feel particularly prone to committing? Do you ever feel hopeless about these sins, like you will never be able to kill them? Why do you feel this way? Answer the following questions concerning one of these besetting sins:

What triggers the desire to commit this sin? What is the first sign that you notice as the temptation arises? Now write down 3-4 ways that you can crucify this sin at this early warning stage, in other words, ways that you can kill it early, before it gives birth to sin and death?

Are there specific habits or things that make you more prone to this sin? Can you set these habits/things aside? Why or why not? (i.e. if your sin is overeating, you can't set eating aside so you must change your habit with this good gift, but if your sin is getting drunk or watching pornography then you can stay away from alcohol or get rid of your TV/computer as your first step). Into which camp does your sin fall?

If it falls into the category of not being able to set the activity associated with it aside (i.e. eating) what should you be doing every day to recognize early warning signs of this desire? Do you still feel like you have no control over this sin? Why? What is missing in your plan of attack?

Above all, from where must your strength come to kill this sin (remember what you learned about the cross-centered, Spirit led life)?