

# killing sin

1 Peter 4:1-6

PART ONE: verses 1-2

## Introduction

**Armed with the perspective of Christ prepares the believer for the sufferings they endure.**

**The danger in misunderstanding and misdiagnosing our problem.**

*Whatever Became of Sin* (publ. 1973) by Dr. Karl Menninger

**The usefulness of guilt and shame.**

***“Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh”*** (v1a).

This is a direct reference to the death of Christ on the cross.

***“arm yourselves with the same way of thinking”*** (v1b).

Kate B. Wilkinson wrote:

*May the mind of Christ my Savior, Live in me from day to day,  
By His love and power, controlling All I do and say.*

**“we have the mind of Christ”** (1 Corinthians 2:16).

**“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies”** (2 Corinthians 4:8-10).

**“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us”** (Romans 8:35-38).

***“for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin”*** (v1c).

**“And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it”** (Matthew 10:38-39).

***“has ceased from sin”***

**“For one who has died has been set free from sin”** (Romans 6:7).

**“For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.... Since therefore the children share in flesh**

and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery” (Hebrews 2:10, 14-15).

***“so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God”*** (v2).

“For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Psalm 51:3-5).

“No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God” (1 John 3:9).

### **The matter of sin and mortification.**

#### **1. Mortification of sin must be done.**

Sin kills. That is its single objective – like a cancer cell, it grows and destroys. Therefore, sin must be killed. That is our main objective.

“The vigor and power and comfort of our spiritual life depends on our mortification of deeds of the flesh” (John Owen).

“We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning” (1 John 5:18).

#### **2. Mortification of sin must be done *daily*.**

Can a true Christian continue to live in habitual sin?

“By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?” (Romans 6:2).

“Do you mortify? Do you make it your daily work? Be always at it whilst you live; cease not a day from this work; Be killing sin or sin will be killing you” (John Owen).

#### **3. Mortification of sin must be *deadly*.**

“Let no man think to kill sin with few, easy, or gentle strokes. He who hath once smitten a serpent, if he follow not on his blows until it be slain, may [regret] that ever he began the quarrel. And so he who undertakes to deal with sin, and pursues it not constantly to the death” (John Owen).

“you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires” (Romans 13:11-14).

“I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me” (Jeremiah 33:8).