

## Four Classes of Church Persons (Introduction) Wickedness

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April 11, 2017

### The Folly of Partial Obedience Leads to Wickedness

1 Samuel 15:3; Deuteronomy 25:19

Gen. 36:12. Amalekites originated from Esau.

Gen. 27:41- flesh (Esau) desires to slay the promise (Jacob).

Romans 9:13

Amalekites lived in southern Canaan-perennial enemies of Israel.

Exodus 17:8-13

Duet 25:18- Ambushed Israel from behind, massacring stragglers and the weary. Psalm 36:1; Prov. 16:6.

Amalek most powerful savage tribe in the region.

Duet 25:17-19. Point of the Mosaic Law- destroy Amalek.

Numbers 13:29- One of the reasons Israel disobeyed God and balked at entering the Promise Land.

Numbers 24:20 Balaam prophesied Amalek's doom.

Judges 6:3-5. Amalekites would harass Israel by entering the land after the crops were sown- moving through the farmland with tents and livestock razing everything in their path.

1 Sam 15:9 Motivated by covetousness, kept best possessions of the Amalekites

1 Sam. 15:12- Saul's pride displayed

1 Sam. 15:23 – Saul and descendants deposed from the throne.

1 Sam. 15:33 – Samuel hewed Agag to pieces.

1 Sam 30:1-5 – Amalekites come back. Verses 16, 17 David slaughters them.

Amalekites represent sin that remains in the believer's life. Cannot be merciful with Agag-he will devour you.

Colossians 3:5-6. Put Agag (flesh) to death.

Sin can escape the slaughter, breed, revive, and regroup. Launch new and unexpected attacks on our most vulnerable areas.

Matthew 5:29-30. You cannot make a lapdog of Agag- we will never tame our flesh. Must deal with it quickly. Not referring to self- mutilation.

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Mortify deeds of the body. The flesh with its faculties and properties; its wisdom (James 3:15), craft, subtlety, strength- must be killed, mortified. The power to produce these negative effects is taken away by the spirit.

Mortification involves cultivation of new habits of godliness; Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 6:8; Ephesians 4:22-25 combined with elimination of old sinful habits.

- Abstain from fleshly lusts. 1 Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 6:18
- Make no provision for the flesh. Rom 13:14 if you don't want to fall don't walk where it is slippery. Refuse to furnish your mind with the means to entertain evil thoughts.
- Fix your heart on Christ. 1 John 3:2-3
- Meditate on God's Word. Ps. 119:11; John 17:17
- Pray without ceasing. Luke 22:40; Matt. 26:41 prayer is a preemptive strike against fleshliness.
- Watch and Pray. Ps. 19:12-14; 1John 1:9
- Exercise self-control. 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Luke 21:34. Watchful discipline that refuses to pander to the appetites of the body at the soul's expense.
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Eph. 5:18

“Every unclean thought or glance would be adultery if it could; every covetous desire would be oppression, every thought of unbelief would be atheism, might it grow to its head...Nothing can prevent this but mortification; that withers the root and strikes at the head of sin every hour, so that whatever it aims at it is crossed in.” (John Owen, *The Works of John Owen* 6:12)

Phil 2:12- We cannot abandon our own responsibility and passively wait for God to mortify sin on our behalf. Sin is not mortified by repressing, internalizing, covering up, exchanging for another sin... sin perpetually stalks us; we must be continually mortifying it.

Sin is not mortified when it is merely covered up. Proverbs 28:13. If sin is only papered over with hypocrisy, what good is it in that?

Sin is not mortified when it is only internalized. Matt 5:21-28. If you forsake the outward practice of some evil yet continue to ponder on the memory of that sin's pleasure, beware. You may have just moved your sin into the privacy of your imagination; where it is known only to you and God. That sin has not been mortified. It is now more deadly by being married to pretended righteousness.

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Sin is not mortified when exchanged for another sin. Hebrews 3:13. What good is it to trade the lust of the flesh for the lust of the eyes? The lust has not been mortified, it has only changed form. Some people feel they have improved their walk in God because they have left prodigality (excessive or overindulgent spending) and move into covetousness (inordinate desire often for another's possessions). If you fall into this tactic, your heart can be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Sin is not mortified until the conscience has been appeased. 1 Tim. 1:5. Part of the process of mortification is working through the issue of our guilt. Those who attempt to evade guilt have not properly confessed their sin. Therefore they cannot be fully cleansed and forgiven.

2 Corinthians 7:10. I want to feel my guilt! Let sorrow do its full work in your heart to produce deep, honest repentance. Don't ignore your guilt to the point of claiming the promise of forgiveness, reassuring yourself, and then thinking no more of your wrongdoing. This is deceitfulness of one's own heart.

Sin is not mortified when it is merely repressed. Some use diversions to avoid dealing with their sin. Attempts to drown out the conscience with entertainment or other distractions. When temptation surfaces you must give a biblical answer, as Jesus did (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). Don't dress sin up into something favorable, like Saul did with Agag. Expose it...Sin is evil, vile, and drove the first man out of paradise. Pull it out, look at it, denounce it, hate it for what it is, then you have the ability to really deal with it.  
**Denounce it until you hate it.**