

PORTRAIT OF THE *King*



ADVERSARIES

“The Battle Against Sin”

MATTHEW 18:7-9



1. Expect the utter death and destruction of that sin.
2. Will yourself to stop the sin.

5 Misconceptions on Putting
Sin to Death, John Owen



“When a man on some outward respects forsakes the practice of any sin, men perhaps may look on him as a changed man. God knows that to his former iniquity he has added cursed hypocrisy, and is now on a safer path to hell than he was before. He has got another heart than he had, that is more cunning; not a new heart, that is more holy.”

**John Owen, *Overcoming Sin
and Temptation***



1. Expect the utter death and destruction of that sin.
2. Will yourself to stop the sin.
3. Rely on a respectable disposition.

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“Let now these men cultivate and improve their natural frame and temper by discipline, consideration, and prudence, and they may seem to themselves and others very mortified men, when, perhaps, their hearts are a standing sink of all abominations. Some man is never so much troubled all his life, perhaps, with anger and passion, nor does trouble others, as another is...

**John Owen, *Overcoming Sin
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“... almost every day; and yet the latter has done more to the mortification of the sin than the former.”

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1. Expect the utter death and destruction of that sin.
2. Will yourself to stop the sin.
3. Rely on a respectable disposition.
4. Divert the sin.
5. Rely on “occasional” triumphs.

5 Misconceptions on Putting
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KEY POINT:

Battling sin takes thoughtful planning.



1. So That We Might Not Offend Others (vs. 7)

Battling Sin (Matt 18:7-9)



“Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.”

Proverbs 19:11



- The offended might tell you they were offended.
- The offended might show relational distance.
- The offended might share with others that you hurt them.
- The offended might say nothing at all.

**How to Know If You've
Offended Someone**



“²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Matthew 5:23-24



A strategy for battling sin:

Fill your mind with the needs and desires of others.



*“³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

Philippians 2:3-4



“³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

- “I must have whatever I want, and I don’t care who is hurt by it.”

- “I deserve what I want more than anyone else.”

Philippians 2:3-4



“The person who deals decisively with his own temptations and sins will be in the least danger of causing others to sin. If he is genuinely and humbly concerned that he himself not stumble spiritually, he will also be prepared and motivated to help others not to stumble.”

John MacArthur,
Matthew 16-23



“When you see the mind of Christ in action, you see people being treated like Jesus would treat people, you see a church thinking about people like Jesus thought about people, and you see people serving people like Jesus served people.”

**Danny Akin, *A Biblical Answer
for Racial Unity***



1. So That We Might Not Offend Others (vs. 7)
2. So That We Might Help Ourselves (vs. 8-9)

Battling Sin (Matt 18:7-9)



“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ”

Philippians 3:8



Another strategy for battling sin:

We must know where and when
we are likely to sin.



“¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

James 1:14-15



1. Temptation
2. Isolation
3. Orchestration
4. Rationalization
5. Transgression

Steps to Sin



“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”

Romans 13:14



Pray (I Thessalonians 5:17).

**Being PREPARED to Battle Sin,
Stuart Scott, *Killing Sin Habits***



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Rehearse Gospel truths (Galatians 5:24).

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Evaluate your heart (Matthew 6:33; II Corinthians 10:5).

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Put off sin and put on righteousness (Titus 2:11-14).

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Depend on the Holy Spirit for help (John 14:26).

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“We must be exercising mortification every day, and in every duty. Sin will not die, unless it be constantly weakened. Spare it, and it will heal its wounds, and recover its strength. We must continually watch against the operations of this principle of sin: in our duties, in our calling, in conversation, in retirement, in our straits, in our enjoyments, and in all that we do...

**John Owen, *Overcoming Sin
and Temptation***



“...If we are negligent on any occasion, we shall suffer by it; every mistake, every neglect is perilous.”

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“The more you treasure the Gospel and all that it really means, the more it will affect your desires and your actions. The more you trust and treasure your union with Christ, the more it will affect your communion (or practical walk) with Him.”

Stuart Scott, *Killing Sin Habits*

