

“Be killing sin or it will be killing you” – John Owen

1. Mortification seeks to kill the enemy within

- 3 enemies – the world, the flesh & the Devil (Eph 2:1-2)
- Mortification is an internal war against the flesh.
- Flesh = ourselves – our old habits & sinful ways (Rom 6:6)
- Not just killing sins, but killing sin – the principles which drive it
- Look for the sin beneath the sin – Ask yourself why do I do that?
- Why does this mean more to me than Jesus?

2. Mortification fights because victory is possible

- It isn't a hopeless battle
- Sin has been defeated by Jesus
- The Sin Defeater's Spirit lives in you & promises triumph (Rom 6:14)
- You have unlimited ammunition!

3. Mortification is motivated by love

- Not fear of losing salvation
- Not hatred of sin, alone it leads to legalism
- Not the painful consequences of sin
- Mortification is motivated by relationship – Gen 39:10
- A key weapon is the delightful duty of contemplating how much God loves us

4. Mortification uses God's weapons

- We do not fight by our own strength. God has given us:
 - His Word – let his word show you God, yourself, your sin
 - His Spirit – seek his Spirit for strength to fight
 - His People – seeking support from other Christians

5. Mortification fights continuously

- Know your failures – yours and others
- Know your weaknesses & strengths
- Know your signs – every sin starts further back than we realise
- Know your seasons – times, people, places where we are weak
- Call your sin for what it is
- Fight the sin beneath the sin
- See your sin in light of the cross
- Deal immediately & deeply – don't go for a cheap grace
- Fight with thanksgiving
- Fight knowing that the fight is fiercest just before the victory

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