

# The Pursuit of Holiness- Session 6 - Chapter 9

## \* Chapter 9 : "Putting Sin to Death"

Small Group Discussion Questions + Leader Notes\*\*

### **1. Bridges begins by stressing that the Bible commands us to "put to death" the misdeeds of the body (Rom. 8:13). Why is this command so strong and active rather than passive?**

Leader Notes / Potential Answers:

- "Put to death" (mortify) is violent, decisive language.
- Scripture portrays sin as something that must be aggressively resisted—not tolerated.
- Passivity allows sin to grow stronger.
- Mortification requires intentionality, vigilance, and Spirit-dependent effort.
- Bridges wants believers to feel the seriousness of sin, not treat it casually.

### **2. Why do Christians often feel resistant to this idea of actively "killing" sin? What misunderstandings lead to this resistance?**

Leader Notes:

- Misunderstanding grace as permission rather than empowerment.
- Confusing effort with legalism.
- Thinking sin is not dangerous if it seems small.
- Belief that willpower alone can't change anything, leading to discouragement.
- Bridges is combating the idea that holiness simply "happens" to us.

### **3. What does Bridges mean when he says sin must be "exposed" before it can be put to death? Why is recognition of sin essential to mortification?**

Potential Answers:

- Hidden sin cannot be killed—only confessed sin can be confronted.
- Exposure brings clarity, accountability, and conviction.
- The Word and the Spirit shine light on areas we overlook.
- Many believers struggle because they fight symptoms but not the root.

#### **4. Bridges says we must deal with sin at the level of our desires, not only our actions. What does this mean, and how is it different from simply stopping bad behavior?**

##### **Leader Notes:**

- Sinful actions flow from sinful desires (James 1:14–15).
- Mortification includes addressing motives, affections, and thought patterns.
- External restraint without internal change leads to hypocrisy or relapse.
- Bridges emphasizes renewing the mind (Rom. 12:2) as crucial to killing sin.

#### **5. Why is it important to attack sin at its first appearance rather than waiting until it has grown stronger?**

##### **Potential Answers:**

- Sin grows when tolerated or rationalized.
- Early resistance is easier and more effective.
- Satan works subtly; small compromises lead to larger failures.
- Bridges calls this “cutting sin off at the pass.”

#### **6. How does the Holy Spirit empower believers to put sin to death? What does cooperation with the Spirit look like in real life?**

##### **Leader Notes:**

- Spirit convicts, illuminates Scripture, strengthens the will, redirects desires.
- He gives wisdom for escape routes (1 Cor. 10:13).
- Cooperation means:
  - responding quickly to conviction
  - obeying even when it’s difficult
  - using Scripture in temptation
  - praying for help in the moment
  - refusing opportunities for sin
- Mortification is Spirit-empowered effort, not self-reliant struggle.

#### **7. Bridges discusses “radical measures” for dealing with persistent sin (based on Matt. 5:29–30). What radical steps might be necessary today to put sin to death?**

##### **Potential Answers:** Examples might include:

- Removing devices, apps, or media access
- Restructuring schedules
- Ending unhealthy relationships

- Pursuing accountability
- Removing yourself from tempting environments
- These steps are costly but biblical.

**Leader Note:** Encourage practicality without shaming. Focus on wisdom.

## **8. Why does Bridges warn against merely “wishing” sin away? What is the difference between wishing for holiness and working toward it?**

**Leader Notes:**

- Wishing is passive; working is obedient.
- Wishing avoids sacrifice; obedience embraces discipline.
- Wishing often comes with self-pity; working comes with Spirit-enabled resolve.
- Holiness isn't magical—it's cultivated through faithful, persistent mortification.

## **9. What sins in the Christian life tend to be “tolerated” rather than killed? Why are these particularly dangerous?**

**Potential Answers:**

- Respectable sins: impatience, envy, complaining, gossip, greed, pride, lustful glances, bitterness.
- These sins appear “small,” but they erode spiritual vitality.
- Tolerated sin grows stronger and spreads to other areas of life.
- Bridges wants believers to take all sin seriously—not just scandalous sins.

## **10. Where is the Spirit prompting you personally to “put sin to death” in a fresh or deeper way this week? What practical step of obedience will you take?**

**Leader Notes:**

- Encourage small, doable steps: confession, accountability, boundaries, Scripture application, prayer rhythms.
- Avoid legalistic vows; emphasize grace-fueled obedience.
- Reinforce that mortification is lifelong and hopeful—because Christ has already broken sin's power.