**THE MORTIFICATION OF SIN**

**Fall, 2022**

**Class 5 – Chapter 9**

**REVIEW (Chapters 7-8)**

1. Prerequisite #1: **Conversion** – only a true Christian can mortify sin.
2. Prerequisite #2: **Seeking Universal Obedience** – a Christian cannot mortify a single sin without striving to be obedient to God in every area of Christian duty (e.g., reading the Word, prayer and meditation, worship, fellowship, etc.)

**CHAPTER 9 - THE DANGEROUS SYMPTOMS OF SIN**

1. Consider the symptoms that accompany a sinful lust.

1. A sinful lust presenting deadly and serious symptoms may require “extraordinary remedies” to mortify.
2. **Deadly Symptom #1**: A pattern of long-continued, habitual, sinful lust in the heart.
3. **Deadly Symptom #2**: Self-justifying a sinful lust based on:
   * 1. Adding up one’s other good works or qualities to excuse the sinful lust, or
     2. Reckless, repeated application of the grace and mercy of Christ to a sinful lust.
4. **Deadly Symptom #3**: Embracing a sinful lust in the mind, although not acting upon it outwardly.
5. **Deadly Symptom #4**: Refraining from a sinful lust only because of the fear of punishment.
6. **Deadly Symptom #5**: Being allowed to remain in a sinful lust as discipline from the Lord.
7. **Deadly Symptom #6**: Receiving discipline or other dealings from the Lord, but the presence and power of the sinful lust continues undiminished.

**Discussion Questions: Chapter 9**

Owen writes the following at the beginning of Chapter 9:

**“Consider the symptoms that accompany a lust. If they are serious and deadly, then extraordinary remedies must be used. The ordinary course of mortification will not work.”**

Owen doesn’t define what he means by “extraordinary remedies” to mortify sin.

* + - 1. What do you think “extraordinary remedies” are, based on what we have studied in *The Mortification of Sin* to date, or otherwise?
      2. What help do we find in James 5:13-20? Do any other passages come to mind?
      3. How might such “extraordinary remedies” be related to the idea of “Church Censures” (i.e., “Church Discipline”) in *Westminister Confession of Faith* 30-3, which provides:

“Church censures are necessary, for the reclaiming and gaining of offending brethren, for deterring of others from the like offenses, for purging out of that leaven which might infect the whole lump, for vindicating the honor of Christ, and the holy profession of the gospel, and for preventing the wrath of God, which might justly fall upon the church, if they should suffer his covenant, and the seals thereof, to be profaned by notorious and obstinate offenders.”

Which of Owen’s six “deadly symptoms” do you find most convicting personally? Have you had to apply any “extraordinary remedies” in your own life to mortify a sinful lust?