

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

When We're Together  
3: Mortify Sin

### Speaker:

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### Scriptures:

Romans 8:13

**Theme:** Pursue holiness within the community of the local church.

**Introduction:** There is so much sin and suffering in this life that it is easy to be mistaken about our greatest enemy. We might look at other people and institutions *out there* as our problem; but the Bible reveals that sin *in here* is our greatest enemy. Sin is treason against God and its path always leads to death. Christians, therefore, must fight hard against sin. As Owen wrote, "be killing sin, or it will be killing you."

Here are 3 truths for our fight to mortify sin:

### 1. Agree with God about your sin

There are many mistaken notions about sin in the world, and they are appealing to us because they are attempts to remove our responsibility and accountability with God. Sin is deceptive, and we see that especially in how we are quick to find sins in others, but slow to recognize our own sins.

Original Sin and Total Depravity teach us that because of Adam's fall, all of us are born corrupted, and guilty before God. Sin extends to every part of us and we are unable to do anything to save ourselves.

### 2. Receive from God his gift of grace

Our inability to overcome sin means that we need more than a helper—we need to be saved, and only the Lord can do it.

The Lord gives us grace in two primary ways: a) justifying grace, where we are pardoned and counted righteous through faith in Christ; and b) sanctifying grace, where we receive the ongoing work of the Spirit to change us through faith and repentance.

### 3. Pursue holiness in your fellowship

Our pursuit of growth in holiness needs to be a conviction that we hold, based upon the Lord's work within us so that we desire to be more like him.

As we have that conviction, we will pursue growth within the community the Lord provides for his people to grow: the local church.

If we understand sin and grace biblically, then we can grow by God's grace, and we will have the sanctification and wisdom we need to be helpful to others. We will also escape from the trap of self-righteousness, as we know that we are sinners.

### Questions:

1. When is the last time you confessed sin in Caregroup and sought help from others?
2. What are your convictions about fellowship and holiness, and do they reflect biblical perspectives?
3. How would you most like to grow in holiness?