**Obliged to Kill**

*Our Grace-Empowered War on Sin*

(Romans 8:12-13)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. **REVIEW:** How does Paul refer to Christians in Romans chapter 6? Specifically, cite the various ways that Paul addresses the believer’s relationship to sin and the impulses of the flesh. What promises of security has Paul given in Romans 8:1-11? In your own words, what role does the Holy Spirit play in the life of the believer according to Romans 8:1-11?
2. **STUDY:** What has Paul said thus far in Romans that would support his claim that believers are no longer debtors to the flesh? What did our flesh previously bring into our lives (see Romans 6:20-21, Ephesians 2:1-3, Titus 3:3-7)? In your own words, why is allegiance to our old flesh incompatible with our new identity in Christ?
3. **STUDY:** What warning does Paul issue in verse 13? How does this square with his words of assurance in verses 1 and 30? Fill in the blank: Obedience is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our justification, not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What effect is the warning of verse 13 intended to have on believers? In what way(s) does Paul’s reasoning in verse 13 parallel that of Philippians 2:12-13? In your own words, explain what God’s role is in sanctification (growth in holiness)? The individual believer’s role? Compare verse 13 with Colossians 3:5 – What are some of the things that believers are hunting down and killing?
4. **APPLY:** Author Jerry Bridges coined the term “respectable sins” – In what area(s) of your life do you need to kill such things? Which (faulty) view of sanctification do you lean toward: activism (it’s all up to me) or apathy (let go and let God)? Why? How can Romans 8:12-13 help you stay balanced? Author Jen Wilkin warns against “celebratory failurism” (simply talking about our failures against sin without actively combatting them) – Do you think this is a real threat in the church? Have you personally been tempted by it? How can it be combatted with God’s promises?