

They are sins that we commit again and again; sins we struggle with, yet can't seem to be done with once and for all; sins that we will to do and yet feel guilty about while we are committing them, and hate and feel guilty about after we commit them.

D. A fourth characteristic of besetting sins is that they are addictive sins.

They are as addictive as alcohol or drugs or gambling; sins that we can't seem to give up; sins that we confess, repent of, and ask forgiveness and cleansing for again and again, but can't seem to quit; sins of which we say, "I can handle it," but which we cannot control.

E. A fifth characteristic of besetting sins is that they are compelling sins.

They are sins that sweep us away with little or no effort, before which we feel utterly powerless; sins that may occur at any time with little or no advance notice and at the slightest provocation; sins in connection with which our feelings and our will are on a hair trigger, so that an enticement to them regularly results in a commission of them.

Besetting sins, then, are really sins, harassing sins, habitual sins, addictive sins, and compelling sins.

Are there sins in your life that are hindering and entangling and besetting you? Have you experienced the bondage of a besetting sin, perhaps for years? Are you presently in bondage to such sin? And if so, does it really matter?

This brings us to our second key question: