

Christ in you

Wholly Useful

Hebrews 13:20-21

Week 2 of 2

Pests—bugs and rodents—even the thought of them makes our skin crawl. But pests find their way into everyone's home at one time or another. The question is, do we hate these pests enough to do what it takes to get rid of them? One survey says that depends on what sort of pest is in the house. Researchers found that people will dish out their hard earned money for an exterminator—meaning they are really serious about getting results—when the following pests are in their home:

- Twenty-four percent of adults—that's one in four—will pay an exterminator to kill spiders.
- Roughly the same number, 27 percent of adults, will pay to annihilate ants.
- With the next pest the percentage jumps to just over half, as 56 percent will pay to banish bedbugs.
- The same percentage, 56 percent, will pay to get rid of rodents. (That's mice and rats. This is getting creepier and creepier!).
- Fifty-eight percent will pay to kill cockroaches. (Maximum creepy!).
- And then the number jumps again when we talk about the bug that can bring the house down: termites. Eighty-seven percent of adults—that's 9 out of 10—will pay to terminate termites.

Notice that except for termites, almost half of adults will live with some very unpleasant creatures rather than pay a professional to ensure the pests are eradicated. This survey also showed that many people are willing to endure a certain kind of pest, but not others.

Take that concept to a spiritual dimension and the same thing holds true. Many people are willing to live—or feel they have to live—with spiritual ants, spiritual spiders, spiritual bedbugs, spiritual cockroaches, spiritual mice, spiritual rats, or spiritual termites. Some sins we tolerate in ourselves; others we won't. (*Anne R. Carey and Keith Simmons, "Calling the Exterminators: Critters that bug us most," USA Today Snapshots (May 22-25), 1A*)

This week's Bible reading will be passages that pertain to holiness.

- DAY ONE – Deuteronomy 7:1-6
- DAY TWO – Psalm 51:1-12
- DAY THREE – 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1
- DAY FOUR – Mark 7:1-23
- DAY FIVE – 1 Peter 1:13-21

Memory Verse: "But just as he who has called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written; 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:15-16)

