

DEALING WITH SIN

Perhaps the greatest challenge for any believer is the battle we have with sin. This truth is not always evident to a young Christian, but as you grow in Christ, you will realize more fully the intensity of this struggle.

The key word of this lesson is:

OVERCOME

The key question this lesson answers:

How do I overcome sin in my life?

The key purpose of this lesson:

To help you learn to overcome your sin nature, and walk in the Spirit of God as he intended.

The key point of this lesson:

If you have true godly sorrow concerning your sin, repentance will follow naturally.

Memory Verses:

*“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” – **Romans 6:11***

*“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” – **Psalms 119:11***

UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF SIN

Sin is a larger issue than most people realize. It is much more than just an individual wrong act, because it involves our fallen nature. In order to overcome sin, it is important to know that God is very clear in his word about what he considers sin to be.

A. It is sin to have a proud heart.

Proverbs 21:4

B. It is sin to live a faithless life.

Romans 14:23

C. It is sin to do the opposite of what you know is right.

James 4:17

D. It is sin to break God's law.

1 John 3:4

E. It is sin to allow any unrighteousness in your life.

1 John 5:17

DISCUSSION:

Has God used one of these passages to reveal an area of sin in your life?

Is dealing with your sin important to you?

UNDERSTANDING WHY YOU SIN

A. You sin because you inherited a sinful nature from Adam.

As a believer, sin will always be an issue in your life, because you did not lose your physical nature at the time of your spiritual birth. You now have an old and new nature.

Colossians 3:9-11

B. You sin because your old nature draws you into sin.

Both natures are present within you at the same time. The issue for every believer is choosing which nature to serve. The nature that you feed the most is the one that will control you.

James 1:13-15; Romans 7:14-25

C. You sin as a result of three major areas of temptation.

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” – 1 John 2:16

1. **The lust of the flesh** – *the temptation to satisfy the desires of your body*
2. **The lust of the eyes** – *the temptation to become covetous*
3. **The pride of life** – *the temptation to be lifted up in pride*

There are two great examples of these temptations in the Bible:

1. The temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden – *Genesis 3:1-6*

- **Lust of the flesh** – Eve saw that the tree was good for food.
- **Lust of the eyes** – Eve saw that the tree was pleasant to the eyes.
- **Pride of life** – Eve saw that the tree was to be desired to make one wise.

2. The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness – *Matthew 4:1-13*

- **Lust of the flesh** – Jesus was tempted to turn the stones into bread.
- **Lust of the eyes** – Jesus was shown and offered all of the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.
- **Pride of life** – Jesus was tempted to prove that he was the Son of God by jumping off of the temple.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Jesus faced the same temptations that we do, and yet he did not sin. Jesus overcame his temptation by quoting scripture. While we can never be completely without sin, we can learn to overcome the temptations of life by standing on the authority of God's word.

Hebrews 4:15-16; 1 Corinthians 10:13

UNDERSTANDING HOW GOD VIEWS YOUR SIN

It is important to know what sin is, but it is also important to know how God views your sin. You belong to a holy God who must deal with your sin so that you may also be holy in his sight.

A. God judged your sin at Calvary by placing your sin upon Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21

B. God allows you to reap the consequences of your sin.

Galatians 6:7-8

C. When you continue in your sin, God will chastise you as his child.

Hebrews 12:5-11

DISCUSSION:

How intense is the battle between your flesh and Spirit in your life right now?

Do you know how to go to scripture in response to the temptation in your life?

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO RESPOND WHEN YOU SIN

A. Accept responsibility for your sin and do not blame others for it.

Proverbs 28:13

B. Judge your own sin, and do not attempt to make excuses or rationalize it.

1 Corinthians 11:31-32

C. Choose to serve God over the sins that frequently dominate your life.

Hebrews 12:1-2; Philippians 3:13-15

D. Confess your sins to God and trust Him to cleanse you.

1 John 1:9; Psalm 41:4

E. Apply God's word to your life to cleanse you from your sin.

2 Corinthians 7:1; John 15:3; 17:17

THE KEY POINT TO THIS LESSON:

Repent by turning away from your sin and pursuing holiness. If you have a genuine godly sorrow concerning your sin, then repentance will naturally follow. Do not go back to your sin, but rather pray and ask God to give you a hatred for that particular sin.

Romans 6:1-2; 2 Corinthians 7:10-11; Proverbs 8:13

UNDERSTANDING HOW YOU CAN OVERCOME SIN

You will never overcome sin in your life until you see sin the way God sees it. Then you may begin to remove the sin from your own life through the power of the Holy Spirit and the word of God.

A. Agree with God that sin no longer has power over you.

Romans 6:6-13

B. Do not provide your flesh with opportunities to sin.

Romans 13:14

C. Do not allow sinful thoughts to control your mind.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

God has equipped you with the tools to overcome sin in your life.

1. The word of God will lead you to overcome sin.

- a. God has made a way to escape from your temptation to sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13

- b. One way of escape is to memorize the word of God.

Psalms 37:31; Psalm 119:9-11

- c. Jesus Christ set the example for you by quoting scripture when he was tempted to sin.

2. The Spirit of God will lead you to overcome sin.

- a. You are now free and able to choose righteousness because the Spirit of God dwells within you.

Romans 8:1-9

- b. The lusts of the flesh have no power over you when you choose to live your life in the power of the Spirit of God.

Galatians 5:16-25

SOME BASIC QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING

A. How do I keep the influences of a sinful world from affecting me?

Be separated from the ways of the world as you follow the Lord Jesus Christ. As you build relationships with lost people in order to win them to Christ, refrain from getting involved in their sin. When your primary focus is on reaching the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ, then you are less likely to be drawn into their sin.

Ephesians 5:5-12; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

B. How will God continue to lead me to deal with sin in my life?

The Holy Spirit of God will convict you of sin in your life.

John 16:7-11; Psalm 139:23-24

Your conscience will point out what is the right or wrong thing to do. However, if you continue in sin and ignore God's conviction, your conscience can become seared.

Romans 2:14-15; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; Titus 1:15

As you read the word of God it will speak into the thoughts and activities of your life.

Hebrews 4:12-13

Discussion:

Do you need to make some changes in your life so that you do not give your flesh opportunities to sin?

Do you need to separate yourself from specific people so that you are free from the temptation to sin?

Is there an area of sin in your life that God has given you victory over?

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. Briefly explain why you sin even though you are saved.

2. According to *1 John 2:15-17*, there are three areas of temptation in which you sin. What are they?

3. How does God view your sin?

4. List three ways to overcome sin in your life.

5. What are some Biblical ways to respond to your sin?

6. What is the key purpose of the lesson, and what has it taught you?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Explain in your own words what the Apostle Paul is communicating to you in *Romans 7:14-15*.

Describe the process of sin found in *James 1:13-15*.

Briefly explain the instructions given to you in the following verses:

Romans 13:14

1 Corinthians 11:31-32

1 John 1:9

2 Corinthians 7:1
