

6 DEALING WITH SIN



How do I overcome my sin?

A famous preacher once said that when a saved person begins to battle sin in his own life, he enters a combat so intense it makes World War II look like a Sunday school picnic. This truth is not evident to a young Christian, but as you grow, you will realize further the intensity of the struggle.

INTRODUCTION

As we saw very briefly in lesson two, when you got saved, you became two people. Your old man in Adam's image has a sinful nature, and your new man in Christ Jesus has God's image. This lesson is designed to help you combat the sin nature of the old man.

I. What is sin?

- A. Sin is breaking God's law. 1John 3:4
- B. Sin is any unrighteousness. 1John 5:17
- C. Sin is anything done apart from faith. Romans 14:23

II. Why Do I Sin?

- A. You sin because you inherited a sinful nature from Adam. Romans 5:12, 1Corinthians 15:45-49
- B. You sin because your old nature draws you into sin. James 1:13-14, Romans 7:14-25
- C. You sin as a result of temptation in three major areas which are outlined in 1John 2:15-16. Jesus was also tempted in these three areas, yet without sin as stated in Hebrews 4:15.
 - 1. **The lust of the flesh**-Eve was tempted in this point in Genesis 3:6 when she saw that the tree was "good for food." Jesus was tempted in this point in Matthew 4:3 when the devil tried to get Him to turn stones into bread.
 - 2. **The lust of the eyes**-Eve was tempted here when she saw the tree was "pleasant to the eyes." Jesus was tempted when the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship.
 - 3. **The pride of life**-Eve fell to the temptation "to be desired to make one wise." Jesus overcame the temptation to cast Himself down to prove the angels would take care of Him.

III. How Does God Look At My Sin?

- A. Your sin was judged by God at Calvary. 2Corinthians 5:21
- B. If you continue in sin, God will chastise you as a father chastises his son. Hebrews 12:5-11
- C. God will allow you to reap according to what you have sown. Galatians 6:7-8

IV. What Things Can I Do to Overcome Sin?

- A. Your sin is your own fault, not anyone else's. You must accept responsibility for your sin. You will never correct anything until you face up to responsibility. Proverbs 28:13
- B. Don't allow sinful thoughts to control your mind. 2Corinthians 10:5
- C. Don't make provisions for the flesh. Romans 13:14
- D. Realize that you are dead to sin in Jesus Christ. Dead men cannot sin. Romans 6:6-13, Colossians 3:1-10
- E. Judge your sin. Agree with God that it is sin. 1Corinthians 11:31-32
- F. Confess your sins to God. 1John 1:9
- G. Hide God's Word in your heart to battle sin.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says that God has made a way of escape from temptation.
 - 2. That way of escape is found in Psalm 119:9-11. It is the Word of God.
 - 3. Jesus Christ overcame His temptation by quoting Scripture.
 - 4. The only sure way of overcoming sin in your life is through the power of the Word of God as you hide it in your heart and apply it to your life.
- H. Trust God's promises to cleanse you and to fight your battles for you. 2Corinthians 7:1, Hebrews 4:15-16
- I. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25, Romans 8:1-8

V. Basic Questions.

- A. How do I keep the influences of a sinful world from affecting me?
 - 1. Don't involve yourself with sinful activities. Of course, you must associate with unsaved people in order to try to win them, but don't get involved in their sin. Ephesians 5:5-12
 - 2. Separate yourself from the ways of the world and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. 2Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4
 - 3. Realize that "separation" is also a positive thing. Not only are you to be separate from the world, but you are to separate yourself unto the gospel. Romans 1:1