

LESSON 12: DEALING WITH SIN

“How do I overcome sin in my life?”

KEY = MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

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.

While it is true that a total transformation of your spiritual self took place as a result of your salvation (2 Corinthians 5:17), you still live in an earthly, physical body and will constantly feel the pull of the sins of the flesh, and of the mind. This study will help you combat the flesh as it wars against the Spirit...*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*” Galatians 5:17.

I. What is sin?

- A. Sin is breaking God’s law or to violate (transgress).

1 John 3:4 says, *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”*



- B. Sin is any unrighteousness.

1 John 5:17 says, *“All unrighteousness is sin...”*

Note: Unrighteousness is an injustice toward God or anything that goes against His Word. There are no little sins and big sins; sin is sin in God’s eyes.

- C. Sin is anything done apart from faith.

Romans 14:23

Consider this: If our faith is not in God, it is in ourselves therefore making us self-righteous.

- E. Sin is an issue of the heart.



1 Samuel 16:7 says, *“...for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”*

See also: Matthew 12:34-35

II. Why do I sin?

You sin because...although you received a new nature at the time of your salvation, you did not receive a new body or a new mind.

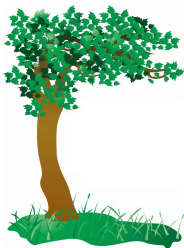
- Romans 6:6-13
- Ephesians 4:21-24
- Colossians 3:1a, 5, 8, 9

You sin because...your flesh draws you into sin.

- James 1:13-15
- Romans 7:14-25
- Galatians 5:16-17

You sin because...of temptation in three major areas which are outlined in 1 John 2:15-16, “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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.*”

This is also first mentioned in Genesis 3:6 where Eve was tempted. Jesus was tempted too in these three areas, yet He did not sin (see Hebrews 4:15). Let’s look at the contrast in these 2 illustrations.



1. The lust of the flesh – TO DO

Eve	Tempted when she saw that the tree was “ <i>good for food.</i> ”
Jesus	Tempted when the devil tried to get Him to turn stones into bread (Matthew 4:3).

2. The lust of the eyes—TO HAVE



Eve	Tempted when she saw the tree was “ <i>pleasant to the eyes.</i> ”
Jesus	Tempted when the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship (Matthew 4:8-9).

3. The pride of life—TO BE

Eve	Tempted “ <i>to be desired to make one wise.</i> ”
Jesus	Overcame the temptation to cast Himself down to prove the angels would take care of Him (Matthew 4:6).

Note: In Isaiah 14:13–14, Lucifer takes his eyes off of God, looks at himself and develops an “I” problem. We cannot take our eyes off of God or we fall prey to one if not all of the above.

III. How does God look at my sin?

- A. Your sin was judged by God at Calvary.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

Remember: There is no sin that you can commit that God cannot forgive and there is no sin bad enough that can cause you to lose your salvation.

- B. If you continue to sin, God will chasten you as a father chastens his son.

Hebrews 12:5-11

- C. God will allow you to reap according to what you have sown.



Galatians 6:7-9 says, *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*

IV. What things can I do to overcome sin?

You must begin by recognizing that your sin is your own fault, not anyone else’s. No one can force you to sin. You must accept responsibility for your sin. You will never correct anything until you face up to the responsibility. Proverbs 28:13 says, *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*

- A. Don’t allow sinful thoughts to control your mind.

2 Corinthians 10:5 says, *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”*



- B. Don't make provisions for the flesh.

Romans 13:14 says, *"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."*

- C. Mortify (Kill!) your flesh.

Colossians 3:5



- 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.

1 Corinthians 11:31-32 says, *"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."*

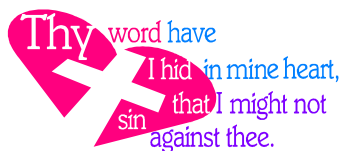
- F. Confess your sins to God.

1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Note: The "he" in this passage is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can intercede on our behalf.

- G. Hide God's Word in your heart to battle sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13 says that God has made a way of escape from temptation. That way of escape is the Word of God.



Psalm 119:11

- Jesus Christ overcame His temptation by quoting scripture.
- 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. Hide those verses that are related to your specific area of sin.



- The Bible is supernatural in its defense against sin.

Psalm 119:97-99 & 104 says, *“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation...Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.”*

See also: Hebrews 5:14

- H. Trust God’s promises to cleanse you and to fight your battles for you.

- *Cleansing* 2 Corinthians 7:1

- *Help in time of need* Hebrews 4:15-16

- I. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:1-8

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

- A. Don’t involve yourself with sinful activities. Of course, you must associate with unsaved people in order to try to win them to Christ, but don’t get involved in their sin.

Ephesians 5:5-12

- B. Separate yourself from the ways of the world and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

James 4:4 says, *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

See also: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Note: Realize that “separation” is also a positive thing. Not only are you to separate from the world, but you are to separate yourself UNTO the gospel and UNTO God.

Romans 1:1 says, *“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God”*

Romans 12:1 says, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

VI. Memory Verses

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

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

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin.