

Foundations Lesson 19

Overcoming Life Dominating Sins Part 1

Outline

- Defining life dominating sins
- The Believer, the World, & Devil's objectives
- The battle is for your heart
- Fighting the good fight and the pursuit of holiness
- How we are kept

1. Defining life dominating sins

- A life dominating sin is any sin that we allow to master or enslave us, that eventually pervades every area of our life. Turn to 1 Corinth 6:12, Rom 6:15-16, Psalm 119
- When a believer allows the flesh or self to govern his/her heart, sin will eventually dominate the soul and render you powerless, ineffective, and spiritually disqualified. Turn to 1 Cor 9:24- 27, Titus 1:12-16
- Man's way classifies this phenomenon as "addictions" implying illness, disease, or disorder.
- There are two categories by which we can become enslaved. Turn to Rom 6:11-14
- No Christian should be content being dominated by any sin. 1Cor 6:12

a. Examples of life dominating sins

Category 1 are sins external to the heart that are caused by the heart. E.g., thoughts, words, and actions. Also known as fruit issues. Rom 6:13

- alcohol, drugs, sexual deviations, adultery, gluttony, laziness, materialism, hoarding, false religion, image, exercise, spending, cursing Gal 5:16-26

Category 2 The flesh governs or dominates the soul and enslaves the faculties of our heart such as the mind, will, emotions and desires. Also known as root issues. Rom 6:12

- Fear, worry, Anxiety, Depression, Shame, guilt, anger, “Love” acceptance, same sex attraction, identity issues
- Man’s way and the world classify these as Psychological, or mental illness issues, or disorders.

2. The Devil, Believer, and Worldly, objectives

a. Satan’s Tactics

- The destruction of your soul through temptation. He tempts us to love the “freedom” of the flesh, more than our freedom in Christ. Gen 3, Matt 4: 1-11, Gal 5:1, Rom 6:15-17
- To confuse us with lies, to the point of disillusionment with the Faith. John 8:44, Luke 22:31
- To fight with one another to destroy the church. Gal 3:1, 5:13-15
- To embitter our hearts through trials and make us angry with God and His people. Heb 12:14-17

b. Worldly Tactics

- Misery loves company **1Pet 4: 1-4**
- Make us feel wrong, bad or like were judging them **Gen 19:9**
- Make us feel welcome in our sin, celebrate us.
- Break us down to get us to compromise

c. The believer’s objective

- We must daily, mortify (fight) the flesh Rom 8:12 - 14
- Keep ourselves in the love of God Jude 1:20-21
- Abide in Christ. John 15:6

3. The battle is for your heart

The battle is not just with our minds but with our hearts, therefore we must distinguish the faculties of our souls and the influence of the Flesh, and the Spirit has on our hearts.

The faculties of the heart are not sinful in themselves and have the potential to be influenced by the Flesh and the Spirit. Gal 5: 16-17

- **The Mind:** We are to renew our **Minds Romans 12: 1-2, Eph 4: 20-22**, Set them on things above through daily meditation Psalm 1
- We are to put on Christ like attitudes or mindsets Philip 2:8
- **The Conscience:** We are to keep our **consciences** clear or free of defilements, pure. Acts
- **The Will:** We are to voluntarily choose what is excellent, good, and right according to the word of God.
- **Emotions/Feelings:** Before conversion, the world, flesh, and the devil completely dominated our emotions. Now we must cultivate Godly emotions.
- **Desires:** our desires (what we want or yearn for) are either to please the Lord or to serve and please the Flesh.

The point is you will either use these faculties for the glory of yourself the Flesh or you will use them to honor God by the influence of the Holy Spirit. Rom 8: 5-9, 1 Cor 2: 14, 3:1-4

The point is your heart is the battle ground of the Spirit and the Flesh in this life.

4. How the believer is kept (the doctrine of perseverance) 1 Pet 1:5, 2 Pet 1:5-11

- We are kept by the power of God through saving faith 2 Pet 1:1
- We are kept through the knowledge of God
- We are kept as we exercise our faith in the promises of God. 2 Pet 1:4

- We are kept by adding to our faith according to Peters prescription in vs. 5
11
- We are kept by keeping ourselves in the love of God Jude 17
- We are kept by abiding in Christ John 15:4-6
- We are kept by mortifying the flesh all our days Rom 8:13-15
- We are kept by putting on the armor of God that we might stand daily. Eph
6: 10 -16

These responsibilities do not guarantee your salvation but will assist the comfort of your assurance as you obey the Lord in these areas. To not do these will result in a blind and unfruitful Christian experience at best, at worst it could mean you have yet to experience regeneration.