

ENTANGLED



overcoming the sin that entangles us

By Charles Willis

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Origin of Sin and Temptation

1. Describe some of the thinking of the world which explains the origin of sin.
2. Examine carefully the first sin of man in Genesis 3.
 - A. Be prepared to describe Satan's tactics with Eve.
 1. Compare Satan's tactics with 1 John 2:15–17.
 2. Compare these thoughts with the temptations of Christ in Matthew 4:1–11.
 - B. List the results/consequences of man's sin from Genesis 3. Try to provide New Testament references that indicate similar consequences for us.
3. Examine carefully James 1:13–15.
 - A. Why can God not be tempted with evil? Try to give a reference from Scripture.
 - B. Create a list or chart describing the different "steps" or "progression" which leads to sin.
 1. Compare with the sin of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1–11.
 2. Compare with Achan's statement in Joshua 7:20–21.

What is Sin?

1. Let the Bible define sin.
 - A. 1 John 3:4
 - B. 1 John 5:17 (include Matthew 25:31–46 in your thinking)
 - C. James 4:17
 - D. Romans 14:23
2. Old Testament words used in regard to sin. Define each.
 - A. Transgression (Psalm 51:1, 3)
 - B. Iniquity (Psalm 51:2, 5)
 - C. Sin (Psalm 51:4)
3. New Testament words or phrases used in regard to sin. Define each.
 - A. Sin (Ephesians 4:26)
 - B. Violation (some translations have “transgression”) (Romans 4:15)
 - C. Transgression (some translations have “trespass”) (Romans 5:15)
 - D. Lawless (Titus 2:14)
 - E. Unrighteousness (some translations have “wickedness”) (1 Corinthians 13:6)
4. From the following references, how is sin described?
 - A. Mark 2:17; 1 Peter 2:24; Hosea 14:4;
 - B. John 8:34; Romans 6:6
 - C. Luke 15:17; Numbers 12:11; Psalms 38:5
 - D. 2 Peter 2:20; Titus 1:15; Revelation 3:4
 - E. James 1:27; 2 Peter 3:14; Jude 23
 - F. 2 Corinthians 6:15; 1 John 1:6; John 8:12

Kinds of Sin

1. Willful Sin (Hebrews 10:26–31)
 - A. Define “willfully” (Heb. 10:26).
 - B. In the context of Hebrews 10, what willful sin is being addressed?
 - C. Give a modern example of sinning willfully.
2. Stumbling Sin (Matthew 5:29–30)
 - A. Define “stumble” (some translations have “offend”) (Matt. 5:29)
 - B. What is the teaching in James 3:2?
 - C. How do we keep from stumbling? (2 Peter 1:10)
 - D. What is the danger in be a stumbling block? (Matthew 18:6–9; Romans 14:21)
3. Secret Sin (some translations have “hidden faults”) (Psalm 19:12)
 - A. People do not want their sins known (John 3:20). Will sin be kept a secret?
 - Numbers 32:23. Try to give two Biblical examples of how secret sin was made known.
 - Matthew 6:4; Psalms 69:5
 - Romans 2:16
 - B. Be prepared to discuss how secret sins of the heart endanger our soul. Consider Matthew 5:27–29 and 1 Kings 8:39.
4. Known Sin (1 Timothy 5:23–24)
 - A. What should the attitude of brethren about known sin? (James 5:16)
 - B. What should be the attitude of brethren when they know of someone else’s sin? (James 5:19–20)
5. Daring (some translations have “presumptuous”) (2 Peter 2:10)
 - A. How is this described?
 - Numbers 15:30
 - Psalm 19:13
 - Deuteronomy 18:20
 - B. Give a modern example of a presumptuous sin.

Sins Against People

All sin is against God and His forgiveness should always be sought (Acts 8:22), but at times we may also need to seek the forgiveness of others. Luke 17:4 says “if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.” We need to return to the one we have sinned against telling them of our repentance and our desire for their forgiveness.

For each of the passages below, try to identify specific sins and describe the attitudes that lead us to sin against another.

1. Sins which are against brethren.

A. John 13:34–35; 1 John 3:18

B. 1 Corinthians 8:12–13

C. Ephesians 4:25

D. Ephesians 4:32

E. Ephesians 4:31

F. Galatians 5:26

G. Galatians 5:15

2. Sins which are against our spouse.

A. Ephesians 5:25–29

B. Colossians 3:19; 3:8

C. Hebrews 13:4

3. Sins which are against our children.

A. Titus 2:4

B. 1 Timothy 5:8

C. Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 13:24

Wrong Attitudes About Sin

1. Deny Sin
 - A. Is sin real? (1 John 3:4; Romans 7:7; 3:23; 4:25)
 - B. Give two examples of people denying sin as being sin.
2. Mock Sin
 - A. How is this person described? (Prov. 14:9; 10:23)
 - B. Give two examples of how people mock sin today. Try to include examples among brethren.
 - C. What will be their result? (Galatians 6:7–8)
3. Minimize Sin
 - A. How does someone minimize sin?
 - B. What are the examples in Proverbs 26:18–19 and 1 Kings 16:31?
 - C. What does the bible say which contradicts the following minimizing statements?
 - It wasn't my fault. (Mark 7:18–23)
 - I'm not that bad. (2 Corinthians 10:12)
 - It was no big deal, not a big sin. (Galatians 5:19–21)
4. Dismiss Sin
 - A. What are the examples in Acts 24:25 and 17:32?
 - B. What is the difference in denying sin and dismissing sin?
 - C. Give two examples of how some dismiss sin today.
5. Love Sin
 - A. Give two examples of how some today have loved sin. Try to include examples among brethren.
 - B. What do the following passages teach us about loving sin?
 - 1 John 2:15–17
 - 2 Peter 2:15
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:10–12
 - 2 Timothy 3:4
 - Romans 1:32
6. Discuss how these five attitudes can progressively work on a Christian.

Right Attitudes About Sin

1. Admit Sin
 - A. Why do some have trouble admitting their sin? (Genesis 3:8–13; John 3:20)
 - B. What is the value of admitting our sin?
 - Psalm 51:1–4 (really the entire Psalm)
 - 1 John 1:9
2. Hate Sin
 - A. Why should we hate sin?
 - Proverbs 8:13
 - Romans 12:9
 - 1 John 2:15
 - Matthew 6:24
 - B. What (specifically) are we to hate?
 - Proverbs 13:5
 - Proverbs 6:16–19
 - Revelation 2:6
 - Jude 1:23
 - C. Is hatred of sin enough? (Romans 7:15)
3. Resist Sin
 - A. Why should we resist? (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8–9)
 - B. How is resistance understood from Ephesians 6:13?
 - C. To what degree are we to resist temptation? (Mark 9:43–48; Hebrews 12:4)
4. Abstain From Sin
 - A. From what are we to abstain? (1 Peter 2:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:22)
 - B. What other language in Scripture indicates abstinence?
 - 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - Romans 13:14
 - 1 Corinthians 15:34
5. Expose Sin
 - A. What is Ephesians 5:11 commanding us to do, and how do we do it?
 - B. Discuss the dangers of exposing sin with an improper attitude about sin. (Consider Matthew 7:3–5; Galatians 6:1)

Using Scripture

1. Discuss from the following passages how Scripture is to be used in overcoming temptation.
 - A. Psalm 119:11
 - B. Psalm 37:31
 - C. Psalm 119:148
 - D. 1 John 2:1
 - E. Matthew 4:1–11
2. What does His seed abiding in us mean? (1 John 1:3:9; 1 Peter 1:23)
3. How does Scripture encourage us? (Romans 15:4; Acts 20:32)
4. Be prepared to discuss ways and means by which we can keep the word of God at hand, ready for the day of temptation.
5. Try to provide a few passages which you find helpful in overcoming temptation.
 - A. Example: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Using Prayer

1. How is prayer connected to overcoming temptation?
 - A. Matthew 26:41
 - B. Matthew 6:13
 - C. Luke 21:36
 - D. Ephesians 6:18
 - E. 1 Peter 5:6–8
 - F. Hebrews 4:15–16
2. How are we encouraged through prayer?
 - A. Philippians 4:6–7
 - B. Matthew 7:7–8
3. Try to identify a few things you pray about in times of temptation which you are willing to share with the class.

Using The Gospel Armor

1. Read Ephesians 6:10–17.
2. What is the purpose of putting on the gospel armor? Give the language from the passage and discuss the meaning.
 - A. Ephesians 6:11
 - B. Ephesians 6:13
3. Explain each piece of the armor and discuss how we use it in our life.
 - A. “Having girded your loins with truth” (6:14)
 - B. “Having put on the breastplate of righteousness” (6:14)
 - C. “Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (6:15)
 - D. “Taking up the shield of faith” (6:16)
 - E. “Take the helmet of salvation” (6:17)
 - F. “Take the sword of the Spirit” (6:17)
4. Extending the comparison of a soldier in the struggle against spiritual forces, consider how the following verses demand an understanding that we put on the gospel armor.
 - A. 1 Timothy 1:18–19
 - B. 2 Timothy 4:7–8
 - C. 2 Timothy 2:4

Leaning on Brethren

1. "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - A. "Such as is common to man" - consider also 1 Peter 5:9–10. How will common temptations enable us to help one another?
 - B. Discuss how turning to brethren may be God's way of escape.
2. Discuss how the following passages instruct us to lean on one another. What help are we to each other?
 - A. James 5:16
 - B. Romans 12:10
 - C. Galatians 6:1
 - D. 1 Thessalonians 5:11
 - E. Hebrews 13:3
3. What is the role of endurance in temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)? (see also Hebrews 10:26–39 and 12:1–4)
4. How do we look for opportunity (Galatians 6:9–10)? How does this relate to temptation? (Consider also Acts 15:39)
5. What part does love play in enabling us to have discussions about specific temptations? (1 Peter 1:22; 2:17; 3:8; 4:8; 2 Timothy 2:24–26)
6. Discuss what must be MY attitude when being tempted that will help me seek help from brethren.
 - A. Watchful (2 John 1:8; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:48; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; 1 Peter 1:13; James 1:22–25)
 - B. Hebrews 10:24–25

Keeping a Pure Heart

1. How will being watchful of our thinking help us overcome temptation ?
 - A. Proverbs 4:23
 - B. Proverbs 23:7
 - C. Luke 6:45
 - D. Matthew 15:10–20
 - E. Matthew 5:8
 - F. 2 Corinthians 10:4–5 every thought captive
2. How do we change our thinking/heart?
 - A. Psalm 51:1–4, 10–12
 - B. We are to be “renewed in the spirit of your mind” (Ephesians 4:23). How do we do that?
(see also Colossians 3:10; Romans 12:2)
3. What does it mean to be “sober minded” (1 Corinthians 15:34; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8)?
 - A. How do we become sober minded?
 - B. How does this help us overcome temptation?
4. How is purity of heart effected by companions?
 - A. Nehemiah 13:26
 - B. Deuteronomy 20:17–18
 - C. 1 Corinthians 15:33
 - D. Matthew 26:69–75

God Sees Sin

1. How is God different than man (1 Samuel 16:7)? How does this help us to overcome temptation?
2. What is revealed about sins of the heart?
 - A. Matthew 5:27–28
 - B. Romans 2:16
 - C. Ecclesiastes 12:14
3. Why do we still think we can hide our sin?
 - A. 1 Corinthians 4:5
 - B. Luke 12:1–3
 - C. Psalm 69:5
 - D. Jeremiah 16:17
 - E. Hebrews 4:13
4. Failure to consider how God sees sin results in our self-deception that we are righteous. How to we reach such a point of self-deception?
 - A. Hosea 7:2
 - B. Revelation 3:1–2
 - C. Matthew 16:6–12 (also 15:14)
 - D. John 12:40
 - E. 1 John 2:11
 - F. 2 Peter 1:9
5. Does our salvation in Jesus Christ mean God will no longer see our sin? “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).
6. Explain the truth stated in Numbers 32:23.

God Forgives Sin

1. Who is the one who is blessed? (Romans 4:7; Psalm 32:1–2)
2. What word or phrase is used to describe God's forgiveness of our sin?
 - A. Psalm 103:12
 - B. Acts 3:19
 - C. Micah 7:19
 - D. Colossians 2:13
3. What is meant by God remembering our sin no more? (Is. 43:25; Heb. 8:12)
4. What is God's desire (2 Peter 3:9)?
5. What is God's basis for forgiveness?
 - A. Ephesians 2:5; Ephesians 1:3
 - B. Acts 10:43
 - C. Acts 5:31
 - D. Romans 10:9–10
 - E. Acts 2:38
 - F. Matthew 6:14–15
6. What sin does God not forgive?
 - A. Matthew 12:31; Mark 3:28–30; Luke 12:10
 - B. Compare with Hebrews 3:7–8, 13; 1 Timothy 4:2; Ephesians 4:19 2 Peter 2:14–15