

Dealing with Sin

I John 2:1 “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1- Before Sin

The road is hard

Straight, narrow path is difficult; few will find it, but it leads to life- Mt 7:13-14

Easier for a camel to go through the eye of needle than a rich man to enter the kingdom- Mt 19:24, Mk 10:25, Lk 18:25

Temptations will come

From the beginning Satan has been tempting and seeking to devour- I Pet 5:8

Adam & Eve, Moses, Peter

Warning- watch & pray, decide & flee

Watch and pray to avoid temptation, spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak- Matt 26:41

With temptation God gives a way of escape- I Cor 10:13-14

Blessed is he who endures temptation, will receive the crown of life- James 1:12-14

Decide to be dead to sin to be alive in God- Rom 6:11-12

Thought- What sins are you really facing? Sins will vary from person to person and within ourselves at different stages in our lives.

At your age, do you have problems with gambling, adultery, embezzling money? You don't have the problem of standing on the street corner selling yourself for drugs, do you? Is your problem struggling to be responsible (“Do all in the name of the Lord”)? Do you face the problem of being with friends that take you to a friend's house to which someone brought alcohol or going bar hopping? You have to search your life and be realistic to what sins and temptations are specifically your weakness.

2- During Sin

Must walk in light to be with God- I John 1:5-7

We can't live two lives. We can't live our sins and live with God. When we choose sin, we turn our back to God.

Eternity is real, it is not an empty threat or scare tactic

Lazarus and the Rich Man

Eternal life is real, must continue in doing good to receive- John 3:15, 3:36, Rom 2:6-11

God will judge the secrets of men- Rom 2:16

We have to cleanse ourselves from all sin to perfect holiness- 2 Cor 7:1

Judgment will happen

Not oppressive or burdening- a fact, a goal

God gave us a plan, a path, promises

We have an advocate in Jesus, gave Himself for our sins- I John 2:1-2

Jesus' purpose was to destroy the works of the devil- I John 3:8-9

Set free from sin- Rom 6:18

3- After Sin

Forgiveness

We have to strive to live right. We know we can ask and be forgiven. Knowing we can ask forgiveness shouldn't let us use it as an excuse or a way out. Being able to ask and receive forgiveness doesn't mean we can "pre-meditate" or purposely sin. We don't need to think of forgiveness as a backup plan, but as a gift.

Forgiveness is necessary, because all sin- Rom 3:23

God has forgiven throughout history and continues the promise to us now

We must forgive others, to be forgiven- Mark 11:25-26

Life is a vapor; don't put off what needs to be done today- James 4:14

We must not let our feelings and attitude toward others keep us from Heaven

We must confess our sins and He will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness- I John 1:9

Pray for our thoughts, not just actions. Forgiveness is not always easy. We may need to pray to keep our thoughts from returning to anger or guilt, even after we have said we have forgiven and said we would move forward.

Thought- Is it easier to forgive others or ourselves?

May depend on the sins (i.e., cheating on homework vs. having someone lie about you publicly and ruin reputation)

Thought- Why should we forgive ourselves?

Moving on from sin- Paul worked even harder- I Cor 15:9

We have to move forward to be able to learn, to grow, to teach

Some sins have lasting consequences for which we have to take responsibility (robbery, murder, fornication, adultery, etc.).

God forgives us, over and over and over...if we don't forgive ourselves, are we saying we are smarter than God? Do we have a right to be harder on ourselves than God is?

Thought- Are you focusing on the "can do's" vs the "can't because I'm a Christian"?

Make a list- Which list is easier to make?