



"SIN SHALL NOT BE MASTER

OVER YOU, FOR YOU ARE NOT UNDER LAW,

BUT UNDER GRACE."

- ROMANS 6:14



Written & Compiled By
PASTOR STEPHEN HILDEBRANDT
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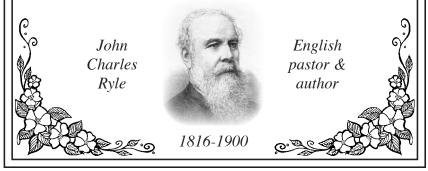
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FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!

G. 200

ll men ought to love peace. War is an immense evil, though it is a necessary evil sometimes. Battles are bloody and distressing events, though sometimes nations cannot maintain their rights without them. But all men ought to love peace. All ought to pray for a quiet life. All this is very true, and yet there is one war which it is a positive duty to carry on; there is one battle which we ought to be always fighting. The battle I speak of is the battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil. With these enemies we never ought to be at peace; from this warfare no man ought ever to seek to be discharged, while he is alive. ... Every professing Christian is the soldier of Christ. He is bound by his baptism to fight Christ's battle against sin, the world, and the devil. The man that does not do this, breaks his vow ... The man that does not do this, is practically renouncing his Christianity. The very fact that he belongs to a Church, attends a Christian place of worship, and calls himself a Christian, is a public declaration that he desires to be reckoned a soldier of Jesus Christ.1



$\cdot C \cdot O \cdot N \cdot T \cdot E \cdot N \cdot T \cdot S \cdot$



Overcoming the Temptations of the World.

1 John 2:15-17 - The Love God Hates.

Pages

What is temptation? What are the two sides of evil? Is the offer to do evil sin to the one being solicited? By what three broad categories of temptation does the world tempt the Christian? What is the Christian's relationship to the world? How is the world pictured in the Bible? How is this picture true in our own country? What defenses does the Christian have in overcoming temptation in the world?

2

Overcoming the Temptations of the Flesh. Romans 6:6 - Consider Yourself Dead.

Pages 14-27 If a Christian is a "new creation," then why does he still sin? Can a Christian become re-enslaved to sin? What is the difference between the believer's position in Christ versus his daily practice, with regard to sin and temptation? Can a Christian become immune from temptation? What does it mean to consider oneself dead to sin? What does it mean to walk in the Spirit? Is a Christian a sinner and a saint?

3

Overcoming the Temptations of the Devil.

James 4:7 - Resistance is Not Futile.

Pages 28-37 Does the devil have an attack plan? What are his chief weapons? How does the devil adjust his strategy? How can Christians resist the devil's assaults? Can the devil make Christian's sin? What are Satan's fiery darts? What does it mean to hold up the shield of faith? What weapon did Jesus use against the devil in the wilderness? Can Satan put evil thoughts in our head? If so, is their in any defense?

"S your heart right? Then be humble and watchful. You are not yet in heaven, but in the world. You are in the body. The devil is near you, and never sleeps. Oh, keep your heart with all diligence! Watch and pray lest you fall into temptation. Ask Christ Himself to keep your heart for you. Ask Him to dwell in it, and reign in it, and garrison it, and to put down every enemy under His feet."2

OVERCOMING THE TEMPTATIONS OF THE WORLD



LESSON 1

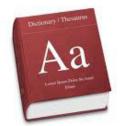
A.	What is Temptation?	2
B.	THE LOVE GOD HATES.	4
C.	The "World" That Christians Should Not Love.	6
D.	The Harlot In America.	8
E.	OVERCOMING THE WORLD.	10



What is Temptation?



Definition:



🌶 1. Enticement to do wrong by

promise of pleasure or gain.

2. Allurement, seduction,

attraction.



The Two Sides of Evil:

The solicitation to do evil.

• Matt. 4:1-10 - "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ... the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."

The desire to do evil.

- <u>James 1:14-15</u> "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."
- Genesis 3:6 "When the woman [Eve] saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."



"Temptations, of course, cannot be avoided, but because we cannot prevent the birds from flying over our heads, there is no need that we should let them nest in our hair." ³



Martin Luther (1483-1546)

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** Has the Christian sinned by the world's solicitations to do evil?

No! Satan tempted Christ (Matt. 4:1-10),

but Christ did not sin (Heb. 4:15-16).

Yet sin usually begins before the outward act, but begins with the inward desire.

Turning away from temptation = No Sin

"It is our own evil desires that lead us into temptation. We may think we merely respond to outward temptations that are presented to us. But the truth is, our evil desires are constantly searching out temptations to satisfy their insatiable lusts (James 1:14)." ⁴



Jerry Bridges (1929-Present)



THE LOVE GOD HATES.

1 JOHN 2:15-17

- Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
- 17 And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.



"Do not love the world"

A New Testament commandment.

• Romans 12:2 - "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."



"If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

You can not love the world & God.

- <u>James 4:4</u> "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the
 world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend
 of the world makes himself an enemy of God."
- Matt. 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the
 one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other."
- 3

"the lust of the flesh"

P Appeal to fleshly desires & appetites.

- <u>James 1:14-15</u> "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
- 1 Pet. 2:11 "abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul."
- 4

"the lust of the eyes"

Appeal to covetousness, desire for riches.

• 1 Tim. 6:9-10 - "But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang."



"the boastful pride of life"

Appeal to Self-promotion.

• Matt. 23:6 - "And they love the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues"



THE "WORLD" THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT LOVE.

Greek word **kosmo**s, English *cosmos*, used in three ways:



Planet Earth

✓-love it

—-hate it

- Acts 17:24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands"
- The Race of Mankind.

 ✓-love it
 —-hate it
- John 3:16 "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."
- * The corrupt world system of immoral government, commerce, philosophy & manmade religion.
- 1 John 2:16 "For all that is in **the world**, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
 - Pictured as a harlot riding upon the back of a beast, and called "Babylon the Great"
 - ______ □-love it ✓-hate it







REVELATION 17

- And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,
- with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality."
- 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.
- 4 And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality,
- 5 and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots, and of the abominations of the earth."
- 6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints...

cf. John 15:18-19, Rev. 18:4



THE HARLOT IN AMERICA.

23 Million Americans are Addicted to Drugs and Alcohol.

Drug and alcohol addiction is the number one public health threat in the United States today.⁵

• 46 Million Americans are Addicted to Cigarettes.6

Between 1964 and 2004, cigarette smoking caused an estimated 12 million deaths, including 4.1 million deaths from cancer, 5.5 million deaths from cardiovascular diseases, 1.1 million deaths from respiratory diseases, and 94,000 infant deaths related to mothers smoking during pregnancy. Cigarette smoking accounts for about one-third of all cancers, including 90 percent of lung cancer cases."⁷

• 40 Million Americans are Addicted to Internet Pornography.

Every second \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography. Every second 28,258 internet users are viewing pornography. Every 39 minutes a new pornographic video is being created in the U.S. The pornography industry has larger revenues than Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo, Apple and Netflix combined. In 2006 worldwide pornography revenues were \$97.06 billion. According to a recent poll, more than 70% of men from 18 to 34 visit a pornographic site in a typical month.

• 148 Million Americans are Overweight / 70 Million Considered Obese.

Almost two-thirds (about 66%) of U.S. adults age 20 or older are overweight -- about 62% of women and around 71% of men. Nearly one-third (about 31%) of American adults are so overweight that they are considered obese, meaning they have a BMI greater than 30; that breaks down to about 33% of women and 30% of men. Less than one-third of all U.S. adults age 20 or older are at a healthy weight, which means they have a BMI of 18.5 through 24.9.9

• 181 Million U.S. Credit Card Holders hold \$2.46 Trillian Consumer Debt.

Average credit card debt per household with credit card is \$16,007. Total U.S. consumer debt: \$2.46 trillion, as of January 2010.6 As another measure of consumer debt there were 1.2 M home repossessions in 2010. 10

Revelation 18:2-4

"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! ... all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality. ... Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues" "All the danger is when the world gets into the heart. The water is useful for the sailing of the ship; all the danger is when the water gets into the ship; so the fear is when the world gets into the heart" ¹¹



Thomas Watson (1620-1686)

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How do you think the percentage of Christians involved in these activities compares to non-Christians?				
Sadly, there is virtually no difference.				

"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church" 12

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)





OVERCOMING THE WORLD.



We Overcome by Faith in Jesus Christ

- <u>1 John 5:4-5</u> "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"
- <u>1 John 4:4</u> "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."
- Heb. 2:18 "For since Christ Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted."
- 2 We Overcome by <u>Prayer for Help</u>
 - <u>Matthew 26:41</u> "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- We Overcome by <u>Separating Ourselves</u>
 - 2 Cor. 6:14-17 "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, 'I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. 'And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you." cf. Rev. 18:4
 - 1 Cor. 15:33 "Do not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals."
- We Overcome by <u>Penewing Our Minds</u>
 - Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."
- We Overcome by

 Spiritual Accountability

 ...
 - <u>Prov. 27:17</u> "Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another."
 - <u>Gal. 6:1-2</u> "Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ."

$N \cdot O \cdot T \cdot E \cdot S$

Romans 12:2 tells Christians to overcome the temptation to conform to this world by the renewing of their minds. How is this to be accomplished?

- Renew your mind through meditation:
- Eastern religions: clear your mind
- · Christianity: fill your mind with God's Word.

Cleansing / Renewing Effect of God's Word:

- Psalm 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."
- Eph. 5:25-26 "Christ cleanses the church
 "by the washing of water with the word"

"Temptations that have been anticipated, guarded against, and prayed about have little power to harm us. Jesus tells us to 'keep watching and praying, that you may not come into temptation' (Mark 14:38). Victory over temptation comes from being constantly prepared for it, which, in turn, comes from constantly relying on the Lord." ¹³

John MacArthur (1939-Present)



Selah. Pause & Meditate.

~ Individual or Small Group Bible Study ~

1 In your opinion, what are the three greatest temptations in the world today facing Christian men? Explain.

Encourage individuals to share their opinions and the reasons for the answers they chose.

- Read Jesus' prayer in John 17:13-15. What does it mean that the Christian is "in" the world, but not "of" the world?
 - (1) He is like a man who stays in a hotel, but has no intention of making it his home. We are aliens in this world (1 Pet. 2:11; Heb. 11:13-16).
 (2) We are in the world to be a light (Matt, 5:16), but not of/like the world (Eph. 5:8-11).
- God calls His people to separate themselves from the world (2 Cor. 6:14-17), and throughout the centuries various groups have attempted to separate themselves in monasteries, convents, and communes. Why are these attempts the wrong approach (Read Matthew 5:14-16)? What does it mean for a Christian to be separate from the world and what are some practical ways true Christians can do that?
 - (1) Separate = Not like unbelievers, especially in their vices (1 Pet. 4:3-4; (2) Learn to stand alone for Christ/what is right.
- What would be a balanced view of God's sovereignty over temptation (Matt. 6:13; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Pet. 2:9) versus man's responsibility (James 1:13-15; 2 Tim. 2:22)?
 - (1) God orchestrates our trials & temptations to grow our faith & dependence on Him; (2) man is responsible for his response to temptation.

Private Devotions

Romans 12:2. Be Not Conformed.

Review the list on page 10 of the five ways for overcoming the temptations of the world. Below, right down the top three of these five areas where you see the most need for improvement in your life.

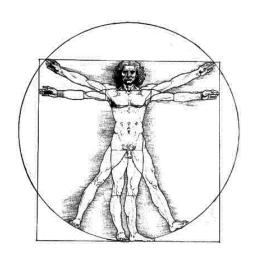
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3
1 John 2:15-17. Love Not the World.
Read 1 John 2:15-17 again and write a short prayer in response to the specific things the Holy Spirit is challenging you in this portion of God's Word.

War Within

Christian is not a person who experiences no bad desires. A Christian is a person who is at war with those desires by the power of the Spirit. Conflict in your soul is not all bad. Even though we long for the day when our flesh will be utterly defunct and only pure and loving desires will fill our hearts, yet there is something worse than the war within between flesh and Spirit -- namely, no war within because the flesh controls the citadel and all the outposts. Praise God for the war within! Serenity in sin is death. The Spirit has landed to do battle with the flesh. So take heart if your soul feels like a battlefield at times. The sign of whether you are indwelt by the Spirit is not that you have no bad desires, but that you are at war with them!"8



OVERCOMING THE TEMPTATIONS OF THE FLESH



LESSON 2

A.	Why Do Christians Still Sin?	16
В.	Position Versus Practice.	18
C.	WAR WITH THE FLESH.	20
D.	OVERCOMING THE FLESH.	22

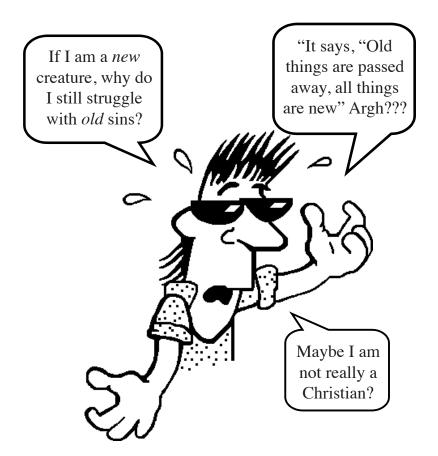


Why Do Christians Still Sin?



THE CHRISTIAN IS A NEW CREATURE.

• <u>2 Cor. 5:17</u> - "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (KJV)



2 THE CHRISTIAN'S INTERNAL STRUGGLE.

• Rom. 7:15 - "For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate."

"I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?" 9



The Apostle Paul (10-68 A.D.)

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Jesus said that everyone who sins is a slave of sin. Is that true when Christians sin?

/es & No!

John 8:32, 36 - Christians are set free by

Christ from the yoke of slavery to sin.

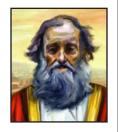
Romans 7:14, 23 - But when we sin we let sin enslave us (temporarily); i.e we do what it says.

cf. Prince living like a Pauper

(cf. John 8:32, 34, 36 & Romans 7:14, 23) [

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" 10

The Prophet Jeremiah (649-570 B.C.)



POSITION VERSUS PRACTICE.

Our Position in Christ Our Christian Practice I Died With Christ I Need to Die Daily Galatians 2:20 - "I have been cruci-1 Cor. 15:31 - "I die daily" fied with Christ; and it is no longer I Rom. 6:11 - "Even so consider who live, but Christ lives in me" yourselves to be dead to sin, but

I Am a New Creature

(Rom. 6:6: Gal. 5:24, 6:14)

2 Cor. 5:17 - "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

(Rom. 6:4; Gal. 6:15)

Sin is No Longer My Master

Rom. 6:14 - "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

Rom. 6:6 - "knowing this, that our old self was crucified ... so that we would no longer be slaves to sin"

(Rom. 6:17-18, 20, 22; Jn. 8:32, 36)

I Am Declared Righteous

(Justification)

2 Cor. 5:21 - "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

(Rom. 4:5, 5:19)

I Am Called a Saint

1 Cor. 1:2 - "To the church of God ... to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling"

(Rom. 1:7)

I Need to be Renewed Daily

alive to God in Christ Jesus."

2 Cor. 4:16 - "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day."

(Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10)

I Must Master Sin

Genesis 4:7 - "sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Rom. 6:12 - "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts"

(Rom. 6:13, 16)

I Am Becoming Righteous

(Sanctification)

2 Cor. 7:1 - "beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

(1 Pet. 1:15)

Walk Worthy of That Calling

Eph. 4:1 - "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called"

"This new man is who you decisively and irrevocably are in Christ. This free man is your deepest and truest identity. Now act on it. Look to Christ, trust his help, and by his Spirit become what you are." 11



John Piper (1946-Present)

N • O • T • E • S What terms does the Bible use to describe the Christian's position and practice? The The Christian's Christian's Position Practice Practice Term: Justification Sanctification Time: Point in Time Process

"The process of sanctification means that the believer is becoming less of a sinner, that process is not complete until death, when the believer is glorified."¹²

R. C. Sproul (1939-Present)





C WAR WITH THE FLESH.



Two Opponents: The Flesh & Spirit.

- <u>James 1:14-15</u> "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."
- Gal. 5:17 "For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."
- Rom. 7:18-19 "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want."
- 1 Peter 2:11 "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul."
- Gen. 4:7 "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

WHAT ARE YOU FEEDING?

Gal. 6:8 - "For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."



A missionary to the American Indians, who had led the chief of one tribe to Christ, later visited to check on his growth. The chief said, "I have two dogs living in my body who are always fighting." To this the missionary asked, "Which dog is winning?" The old chief answered, "The dog I feed the most is always the dog that wins." 13

"Every time we say yes to temptation, we make it harder to say no the next time." ¹⁴

Jerry Bridges (1929-Present)



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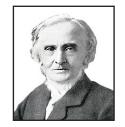
₩ How does Romans 7:14-25 contradict John Wesley & the Pentecostal Holiness Church's doctrines of perfectionism? (See Appendix 2)

Wesley / Pentecostal View - Perfection is a second work of grace wrought instantaneously in a Christian's heart, making him/her sinlessly perfect. -- Wesley said he never attained it.

In Romans 7, the Apostle Paul writes of his continued struggle with sin AS A BELIEVER!

"The temptation once yielded to gains power. The crack in the embankment which lets a drop or two ooze through is soon a hole which lets out a flood." ¹⁵

Alexander Maclaren (1826-1910)





OVERCOMING THE FLESH.

Ephesians 4:22-24

"... that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

Yes, But How?



We Overcome by <u>P</u> <u>Crucifying the flesh</u>

- <u>Gal. 5:24</u> "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (cf. Gal. 2:20)
- <u>Gal. 2:20</u> "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."
- Rom. 8:13 "for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."
- Rom. 6:6 "knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin"
- Rom. 6:11 "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."
- <u>Col. 3:5</u> "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry." (NIV)
- 1 Cor. 15:31 "I die daily"



We Overcome by Walking in the Spirit

- Rom. 8:13 "for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."
- <u>Gal. 5:16</u> "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."
- <u>Gal. 5:25</u> "If we live by the Spirit (regeneration), let us also walk by the Spirit (sanctification)."

"Do you mortify [the flesh]? Do you make it your daily work? Be always at it whilst you live; cease not a day from this work; be killing sin or it will be killing you." 16

John Owen (1616-1683)



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What does it mean to crucify the flesh?

It means: (1) to deny oneself (cf. Mt. 16:24);

(2) to die to one's own fleshly desires;

(3) to tell yourself" No" sometimes.

What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?

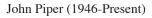
/ It means: (1) daily confession & repentance;

(2) therefore, no unconfessed sin; (3) obedi-

ence & submission to God's will; (4) the basics:

prayer, Bible study, fellowship, & outreach

"'Walking by the Spirit' and 'being led by the Spirit' refer to the same thing. 'Being led by the Spirit' stresses the Spirit's initiative and enablement. 'Walking by the Spirit' stresses our resulting behavior. The Spirit leads us by creating desires to obey God, and we walk by fulfilling those desires in action."¹⁷







OVERCOMING THE FLESH. (CONT'D)



We Overcome by The fear of the Lord

• <u>2 Cor. 7:1</u> - "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."



We Overcome by No provision for the flesh.

• Rom. 13:14 - "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts."



We Overcome by <u>Capturing our thoughts</u>

• <u>2 Cor. 10:5</u> - We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,



We Overcome by Making the way out.

- <u>1 Cor. 10:13</u> "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, that you may be able to endure it."
- <u>2 Tim. 2:22</u> "Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." cf. Joseph (Gen. 39:7-15)



We Overcome by Prayer

 Matt. 6:13 - "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

"Temptation usually comes in through a door that has deliberately been left open." ¹⁸

Arnold Glasow (1905-1998)



"We must pray constantly for His enabling grace to say no to temptation, of choosing to take all practical steps to avoid known areas of temptation and flee from those that surprise us." 19



Jerry Bridges (1929-Present)

$N \cdot O \cdot T \cdot E \cdot S$

What does it mean to "take every thought captive" to the obedience of Christ?

 \mathscr{J} It means to: (-) not dwell on lustful,

anxious, or any other evil thoughts; and

(+) to dwell on godly thoughts (Phil. 4:6-8).

Isaiah 26:3

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,

whose mind is stayed on Thee.

"Unwillingness to accept God's 'way of escape' from temptation frightens me – what a rebel yet resides within."²⁰

Jim Elliot (1927-1956)



Selah. Pause & Meditate.

~ Individual or Small Group Bible Study ~

- 1 Fom the material we studied in this lesson, summarize how the Christian is both a sinner and a saint?
 - Through justification by grace through faith, we were declared to be righteous & holy in our standing/POSITION before God, by Christ's righteousness imputed to our account.
 - Through sanctification, we still growing in godliness in our PRACTICE, but will never be sinlessly perfect in this life
- 2 Read Romans 8:23 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-53. What does the Bible say that Christians are still awaiting the redemption of? What will be different then concerning sin and temptation?
 - · We are awaiting the redemption of the body.
 - When Christ returns we will receive a new glorified body incapable of sin.
 - All inhabitants of the new heaven and earth will have perfect sinless natures (2 Peter 3:13).
- Why do you suppose that some Christians struggle more with sin than others?
 - May not really be a Christian.
 - · May have a misunderstanding of Christian life.
 - · May have been poorly taught / discipled.
 - · May be a new Christian.
 - · May be in rebellion / backsliding.
 - etc, etc, etc.

Private Devotions

Gal. 5:19-21. The Deeds of the Flesh.

Read Galatians 5:19-21 where the Apostle Paul lists the deeds of the flesh. Notice he says that these are works that characterize those who "will *not* inherit the kingdom of God." Talk to God right now about those areas from the list that you struggle with and ask His forgiveness for acting like an unbeliever (Read 1 John 1:8-10). Repent, and formulate a concrete plan to take positive steps to turn away from these sins (Read Acts 3:19).

Rom. 6:1-2. Shall We Continue to Sin?

Think about those sins that you have repeatedly asked forgiveness for and yet continue to abuse God's grace. What is your plan to change? Refer to Appendix 3 and 4 on steps to true repentance. Set as a goal to memorize all of Romans 6 in the next 60 days. If you don't already have an accountability partner, ask a close friend or family member, that you can share your deepest, darkest secrets with, if they would be willing to meet with you weekly, for a time of prayer and accountability.

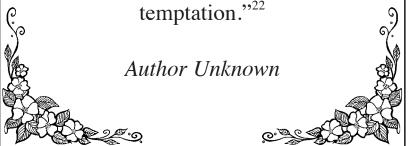
"What do you do when you catch yourself in some sin? Do you promise to do better or try harder next time? If you can make yourself better by a more rigorous application of the Law, then you don't need Christ."²¹

Martin Luther (1483-1546)





atan and his demons stalk the path of every believer, offering all manner of enticements to lure the Christian away from an obedient and faithful walk with Christ. No one is exempt from Satanic attacks, and no one is completely successful in countering them, but some Christians succumb to temptation so often that they see no hope for victory. They give up and give in without a struggle. This is an unfortunate condition, born out of despair, for it will blind the believer to the marvelous provision God has made for overcoming



OVERCOMING THE TEMPTATIONS OF THE DEVIL



LESSON 3

A.	Satan's Tactics	30
В.	OVERCOMING THE DEVIL.	32



Satan's Tactics.



SCHEMES.

- Eph. 6:11-12 "Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the *schemes* of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."
- <u>2 Cor. 2:11</u> "in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his *schemes*."



CHIEF WEAPONS: DOUBT & DECEPTION.

- <u>Gen. 3:1, 4</u> "And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" ... And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die!"
- <u>John 8:44</u> "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."
- Rev. 12:9 "And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."
- <u>2 Cor. 4:4</u> "the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ"



Frontal Attack: As a Roaring Lion.

• <u>1 Peter 5:8</u> – "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."



BEHIND ENEMY LINES: As an angel of Light.

• <u>2 Cor. 11:14-15</u> – "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness"

"Satan, like a fisher, baits his hook according to the appetite of the fish."²³

Thomas Adams (1583-1652)

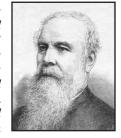


$N \cdot O \cdot T \cdot E \cdot S$

What does Paul mean when he says that we are not ignorant of Satan's schemes?

Eve may have been ignorant of Satan's schemes at the beginning of time (Gen. 3:1-7; 2 Cor. 11:3), but after 6000 years of human history we have probably seen most of his bag of tricks.

"We are too apt to forget that temptation to sin will rarely present itself to us in its true colors, saying, "I am your deadly enemy, and I want to ruin you forever in hell." Oh no! Sin comes to us like Judas, with a kiss; like Joab, with outstretched hand and flattering words. The forbidden fruit seemed good and desirable to Eve; yet it cast her out of Eden. Walking idly on his palace roof seemed harmless enough to David; yet it ended in adultery and murder. Sin rarely seems (like) sin at first beginnings. Let us then watch and pray, lest we fall into temptation."²⁴



J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)



Overcoming the Devil.



RESIST HIM BY FAITH.

- <u>James 4:7</u> "*Resist* the devil and he will flee from you."
- <u>1 Pet. 5:8-9</u> "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But *resist* him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world."



PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD.

- Eph. 6:10-13 "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."
- Eph. 6:16 "take up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one."



Colossians 2:6 - Faith That Walks

"As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him"

We were justified by



to release us from the penalty of sin.

Point in Time

We are sanctified by



to release us from the power of sin.

Process

These truths are accomplished facts that

become more and more real to us



in our daily lives as our faith grows.

THE SHIELD OF FAITH.



EPHESIANS 6:16

"Take up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the evil one."

"the shield of faith" = Faith in God

"fiery darts" = Temptations to doubt God

"the evil one" = Satan

IT MEANS TO BELIEVE THE TRUTH THAT...

- Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me." (cf. Rom. 6:6)
- Rom. 6:6 "Our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."
- <u>2 Cor. 5:17</u> "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."
- <u>John 8:32, 36</u> "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ... If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."



THE ARMOR OF GOD. (CONT'D)

• Eph. 6:17 - "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

Jesus' Temptation In The Wilderness Matthew 4:1-11

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "IT IS WRITTEN, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." $\underline{5}$ Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning you'; and 'on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." 7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, IT IS WRITTEN, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For IT IS WRITTEN, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only" 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

What "sword" did Jesus use against the devil in the wilderness?

Sword of the Spirit = Word of God.

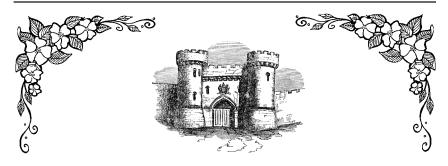
• Rev. 12:11 - "And they [God's people] overcame him [the devil] because of the blood of the Lamb and because of *the word* of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death."



3

GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU!

- <u>2 Thess. 3:3</u> "But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one."
- <u>1 John 4:4</u> "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."
- Rom. 8:31 "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"



A Mighty Fortress

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He amid the flood, of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe, doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

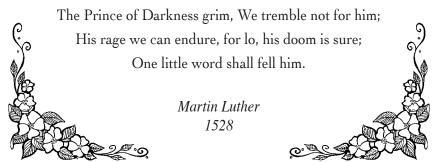
Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;

Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same,

And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, We will not fear for God hath willed, His truth to triumph through us.



Selah. Pause & Meditate.

~ Individual or Small Group Bible Study ~

- 1 Comedian Flip Wilson (1933-1998) use to say, "The devil made me do it!" Can the devil force the Christian to do anything? Explain.
 - No, the devil cannot make the Christian do anything, because greater is He (Christ) who is
 in the Christian than he (Satan) who is in the
 world (1 John 4:4).
 - Satan can stir up persecution against us, and tempt us to do evil, but only under God's control (Job 1 & 2).
- **2** Give two or three examples in which you were tempted to doubt God's Word, but trusted Him instead, and everything worked out for you?
 - Tithing is always a great example. Young Christians often doubt that they can pay their bills and tithe until they trust God and do it.
 - Choosing a job, sports or recreations that don't conflict with Sunday service is another great example. cf. Olympic champion, Eric Liddell.
- 3 Can you think of an example of someone who trusted God's Word and things got worse, but they kept trusting Him anyway (there are plenty of examples). Who has more faith, the one's for whom things worked out when they trusted God, or the one's for whom things got worse? (Read Hebrews 11:32-39)
 - Job is the obvious example.
 - · Neither one has more faith. God does different things through different people.

Private Devotions

Eph. 6:16. Hold Up Your Shield of Faith.

Unexplained waves of evil thoughts, irrational emotions, or ugly attitudes might be a salvo of Satan's fiery darts hurled your way. Remind yourself again what God's Word says to do in that situation (Review Eph. 6:16). What does that actually mean in practical terms? i.e. What can you do?

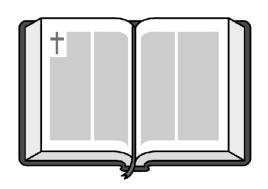
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Psalm 119:11. Heart Protection.

If Satan can throw doubts our way (cf. the Apostle Peter, Matt. 16:21-23), how does Psalm 119:11 say we can guard our hearts against sin? Write down a plan of how you are going to put this into place in your own life?

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ADDITIONAL Reference Material



APPENDICES

1.	Review Of Romans 6.	40
2.	Review Of Romans 7.	42
3.	Marks Of Repentance.	44
4.	True & False Repentance.	45

APPENDIX 1. Review of Romans 6

- 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;
- 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts,
- and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.
- 17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,
- and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
- 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.
- 22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

Notes

6	"old self" was crucified with Christ
	our body of sin done away with"
	Greek - katargeo - to render inoperative,
	abolish, fade away
	we were slaves of sin, but "no longer"
11	By faith we believe the fact that we are crucified
	with Christ & dead to sin.
12	Don't let sin reign (faith & effort required) because
	you're no longer its slave.
13	The Christian is free to choose now
	"present the members of your body" - effort
14	grace is freedom from (1) the past penalty of sin,
	and also (2) the present power of sin.
17	"were slaves" - past tense
18	"having been freed from sin" - past tense
	"slaves of righteousness" - ultimate freedom
20	"were slaves" - past tense
	were unable to (free from) doing righteousness
22	"having been freed from sin" - past tense
	

APPENDIX 2. REVIEW OF ROMANS 7

- 14 For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.
- 15 For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.
- But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good.
- 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me.
- 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.
- 19 For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.
- 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.
- 21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.
- but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.
- Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?
- 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

Notes

	am (7x) - present tense, i.e describing Paul s ristian life; flesh is in bondage. sin is irrational, can't understand it
15 My	Sin is in delond; can't andersearch
	r. 17:9); inner battle; but he hates sin.
	ul's flesh opposes God's Law Law is good;
	im evil
	new creation - 2 Cor. 5:17) not doing it,
	t I (my flesh) responding to sin.
	thing good dwells" in me" (4x)
	my flesh," Greek - sarx
	od desires, evil practices
20 I s	sin which dwells in me
21 Tu	oo things (1) the presence of evil
	in me" (2) the desire to do good
	ese two (1) the law of God in my mind
" w	aging war" (2) the law of sin in by body
24 I a	am a new creation imprisoned in unredeemed
fle	sh. (cf. Rom. 8:23)
25 <u>Ser</u>	ving law of God and the the law of sin

APPENDIX 3. The Marks of Repentance

O Contrition.

- <u>Psalm 51:17</u> "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."
- R.C. Sproul "Contrition includes a deep remorse for having offended God. The contrite person openly and fully confesses his sin with no attempt to excuse it or justify it."

2 Be Specific.

• Charles Spurgeon – "People make a general confession such as , 'I am a sinner,' who would still resist any special charge brought home to their consciences, however true. Say to such a person, 'You are a cheater,' and he replies, 'No, I am not a cheater!' What are you, then? A liar? 'Oh, no!' Are you a Sabbath breaker? 'No, nothing of the kind.' And so when you come to sift it, you find them sheltering themselves under the general term sinner, not to make confession, but to evade it."

3 Address the Underlying Problem

• <u>Richard Lovelace</u> – "Revival takes place in the lives of communities when people stop seeing sin as an isolated act of disobedience and they begin to see it as an organic network of compulsive beliefs, behaviors, and thoughts that issue out of my basic alienation from God."

4 Trust Boldly in Christ.

• Martin Luther – "Here is the test to see if you are seeking to be justified by the Law: How do you pray when you find yourself caught in some sin? If you promise to do better, then you don't need Jesus. The alternative is to despair of your own righteousness and trust boldly in Christ."

Do Actions Match Words?

• <u>John Ruskin</u> – "Faithful prayer always implies correlative exertion; and no man can ask honestly and hopefully to be delivered from temptation, unless he has himself honestly determined to do the best he can to keep out of it."

God is Faithful to Forgive.

- 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- Rom. 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

APPENDIX 4. True & False Repentance

Words Alone ar NOT Repentance.

• <u>Isaiah 29:13</u> – "this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me"

2 Remorse Alone is NOT Repentance.

• Matt. 27:3-4 – "Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' But they said, 'What is that to us? See to that yourself!"

Wishing to do Good is NOT Repentance.

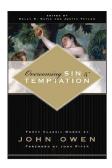
• Rom. 7:18-19 – "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish."

Even Crying is NOT Repentance.

• Heb. 12:15-17 – "See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; 16 that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. 17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears." cf. 2 Cor. 7:10

O Changing Direction IS Repentance.

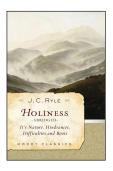
- Rom. 13:14 "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts."
- <u>1 Thess. 1:9</u> "For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you *turned* to God from idols to serve a living and true God"
- <u>2 Tim. 2:22</u> "Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."



Overcoming Sin & Temptation, by John Owen, Crossway Books, Wheaton IL, © 2006 464 pages ISBN: 9781581346497 Originally written: 1658

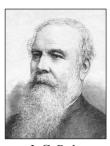


John Owen (1616-1683)



Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties and Roots, By J. C. Ryle Moody Pub, © 2010 224 pages ISBN: 0802454550

Originally written: 1879



J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)



Keep in Step With the Spirit By J. I Packer Fleming H. Revell Co. Old Tappan, NJ, © 1984 301 pages ISBN: 0-8007-1382-6



J. I. Packer (1926-Present)



The Enemy Within, by Kris Lundgaard, P&R Publishing, Phillipsburg, NJ, © 1998 157 pages ISBN: 978-0-87552-201-2



Kris Lundgaard (1966-Present)

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Romans 6

- 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?
- 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?
- 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;
- 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts,
- and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.