

Temptation

Lesson 3 Yielding To Temptation

Introduction

- Christians must seek to endure temptation through self-control by placing our mind and body under God's control
- Self-control is God's way of escape
- But what occurs when we yield to temptation?
- When we fail, we choose to take Satan's bait by practicing sinful desires and behavior

2

Introduction

- Misunderstanding what happens when we yield to temptation results in not practicing self-control which is God's way of escape
- Some are teaching that unless there is sinful desire on our part, there is no temptation
- Some are teaching that as long as lustful desires are not further acted on, there has been no yielding to temptation

3

Yielding To Temptation

Sinful desire not always connected with temptation

God, temptation and evil

How Satan tempts us and our sinful response

Examples of those who yielded to temptation

What do we do when we sin?

4

Sinful Desire Not Always Connected With Temptation

- Some wrongly conclude and teach that sinful desire must be present in order for there to be temptation
- If you do not desire something, there is no temptation
- But Scriptures teach that temptations occur whether we respond to them with sinful desires and other behavior or endure them by taking the Lord's way of escape by self-control

5

Temptation Common To Man Not Lust To Temptation

1Co 10:13 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.

6

If Nature of Evil Is From Within Then

- Calvinists would be correct that we are born totally depraved
- Or, we have a genetic predisposition toward some sins – genes that predispose us to homosexuality for example
- We respond to temptation because we have learned to do so
- Satan appeals to us to express learned sinful desires and yield to temptation

7

Sinful Response To Temptation Is Learned

Eph 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Deu 1:39 'Moreover, your little ones who you said would become a prey, and your sons, who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them and they shall possess it.

8

Sinful Response To Temptation Is Learned

1Jn 2:15 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.

1Jn 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.

1Jn 2:17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

9

God, Temptation And Evil

Jas 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

10

God, Temptation And Evil

- James 1:13-15 does not teach that nature of evil is from within us
- James is considering temptation from without that solicits us to do evil and our sinful response to it
- This is in contrast with enduring temptations, responding righteously by not expressing sinful desires or other sinful actions

11

God, Temptation And Evil

Jas 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

12

God, Temptation And Evil

- God can be challenged from without but cannot be solicited to do evil, led by His sinful desires
- God can tempt us by testing our faith whether we will obey Him or not but can never entice us to do evil
- God permits Satan to tempt us by enticing us to do evil but God never solicits us to sin

13

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14

God Can Be Challenged From Without, Tempted

Act 15:10 "Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?"

15

God Tests Our Faith But Does Not Solicit Us To Sin

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;

16

God Permits Satan To Entice Us To Sin

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Mat 4:2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

Mat 4:3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

17

How Satan Tempts Us And Our Sinful Response

- James gives two pictures of what occurs when we choose to yield to temptation
- First – taking the bait – temptation + sinful desire = enticement
- Second – conception of child – temptation + sinful desire = conception of stillborn child, death
- Become slave to sin when we think we can control it

18

Two Pictures of Yielding To Temptation

Picture 1 – Taking the bait

Jas 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

Picture 2 – Conception of stillborn child

Jas 1:15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

19

Become Slaves To Sin Not Master of Sin

Rom 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

2Pe 2:19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

20

David Yields To Temptation

2Sa 11:2 Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.

2Sa 11:3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

21

David Yields To Temptation

2Sa 11:4 David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house.

22

A Son Yields To Temptation

Pro 7:6 For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice,

Pro 7:7 And I saw among the naive, *And* discerned among the youths A young man lacking sense,

Pro 7:8 Passing through the street near her corner; And he takes the way to her house,

Pro 7:9 In the twilight, in the evening, In the middle of the night and *in* the darkness.

23

A Son Yields To Temptation

Pro 7:10 And behold, a woman *comes* to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart.

Pro 7:11 She is boisterous and rebellious, Her feet do not remain at home;

Pro 7:12 *She is* now in the streets, now in the squares, And lurks by every corner.

Pro 7:13 So she seizes him and kisses him And with a brazen face she says to him:

24

A Son Yields To Temptation

Pro 7:14 "I was due to offer peace offerings;
Today I have paid my vows.

Pro 7:15 "Therefore I have come out to
meet you, To seek your presence earnestly,
and I have found you.

Pro 7:16 "I have spread my couch with
coverings, With colored linens of Egypt.

Pro 7:17 "I have sprinkled my bed With
myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.

25

A Son Yields To Temptation

Pro 7:18 "Come, let us drink our fill of love
until morning; Let us delight ourselves with
caresses.

Pro 7:19 "For my husband is not at home,
He has gone on a long journey;

Pro 7:20 He has taken a bag of money with
him, At the full moon he will come home."

26

A Son Yields To Temptation

Pro 7:21 With her many persuasions she
entices him; With her flattering lips she
seduces him.

Pro 7:22 Suddenly he follows her As an ox
goes to the slaughter, Or as *one in* fetters to
the discipline of a fool,

27

What Do We Do When We Sin?

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He
Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship
with one another, and the blood of Jesus His
Son cleanses us from all sin.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we
are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not
in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful
and righteous to forgive us our sins and to
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

28

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29