

Christians Deal With Sin – Daily

Text : **I John 1: 5 - 2:12**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Did you every have a disease that just won't go away ? Most have.

1. Athlete's foot can be controlled, but never cured.
 - a. Caused by ringworm fungus.
 - b. Flare-ups can occur at any time until death.
2. Herpes is even more common than athlete's foot.
 - a. Commonly called : cold sores or fever blisters can affect other body parts
 - b. Has become a common sexually transmitted disease.
 - c. Contagious even when dormant.
 - d. Thought to cause Bell Palsy and possibly Alzheimer's.
3. Asthma is an ever increasing problem.
 - a. Actually a Greek word meaning "to pant."
 - b. An attack is an allergic reaction to various triggering agents.
 - c. May go years without an attack, but the danger is always there.

B. All of us share the most common incurable disease and it is always fatal – SIN.

1. We are exposed to sin at a very young age.
2. Once sin has come into our hearts, we battle it the rest of our lives.
 - a. It pollutes us both physically and spiritually.
 - b. It is always fatal.
3. There is a spiritual cure, but the physical effects remain with us until death.

C. One who comes to Christ in obedient faith will be forgiven, but for the rest of his life must continually battle against flare-ups.

1. No matter how much you desire to live without sin you do and you will sin again.
2. This is the essence of our text.
 - a. **I John 1: 8** – If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.
10 – If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.
 - b. The book of I John is written to Christians to discourage them from sinning.
I Jn 2: 1 – My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.

Is fighting sin a hopeless cause ? Should we give up ? With this lesson we want to consider why we keep on sinning even when we are trying to avoid it.

I. We must realize the source of sin.

A. It is human nature to try to blame other people for our mistakes.

1. It started in the garden; Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent.
2. We still try to blame our sin on the devil. *“The devil made me do it.”*
3. After all, who can blame us for the works of the devil. *“Poor me; I’m just a victim.”*

B. Everyone is tempted, but not all sin as a result of every temptation.

1. **I Cor. 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.

(Not Unique)

(Not hopeless)

2. EVERY Christian should memorize this verse. **It teaches :**
 - a. Everybody will be tempted; ... count on it.
 - b. God himself limits the temptations to make sure you are not overwhelmed.
 - c. There is no excuse for yielding to any temptation; the choice is yours.

C. We sin because we choose to do so, not because we are compelled to do so.

1. **James 1: 13–15** 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. **14** But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. **15** Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
2. Our spirit dwells in a body that feels strong desires. (*One’s body focuses on itself.*)
 - a. Everyone’s body is different so people don’t all long for the same things.
(*Beer is nothing but rotted grain to me, but I’ve met few pies I did not want.*)
 - b. I Cor. 10: 13 teaches us we have the ability to resist whatever tempts our flesh.
 - c. *We have a choice; serve God or serve our flesh; love God or love ourselves .*

D. Lust is wanting to get something for nothing.

Love is wanting to give something for nothing. (*selfish -vs- unselfish*)

1. Thus, “lust” (strong desire) is the selfish alternative to unselfish love.
2. Lust is a temptation which has to be overcome in order to be able to love.

* **Lust is the selfish hunger of a spiritually starved soul.**

II. We must realize why it is important that we stop sinning. (*Take it serious.*)

A. Sin represents a totally false premise.

1. From the first sin until the last sin offers more than it can deliver.
 - a. It can provide temporary physical pleasure.
 - b. It can never provide true happiness or fulfillment. (*no fulfillment*)
2. Many are trying to use sin to fill the emptiness within instead of turning to God.

B. Sin condemns one's soul to eternal separation from God.

1. **Rom 6: 23** – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in ...
2. **Isa. 59: 1-2** ... And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

C. The most horrible consequence of sin was the death of God's Son on a cross.

1. His death was payment for crimes we committed; it was paid as our ransom.

I Tim. 2: 3-6 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

(*I was guilty, but He was punished.*)

2. He ransomed us while we were in rebellion, i.e., enemies of God deserving wrath.

Rom 5: 8-10 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

(*God is the Sovereign ruler over the world. Sin is rebellion.*)

3. His sacrifice is the basis of our relationship with God. **Reconciliation**

D. Considering the cost that God paid to rescue us from sin, how could anyone disregard the sacrifice of Jesus for temporary earthly pleasure ?

1. Have you ever given someone an expensive gift and had them disregard it.
 - a. It breaks your heart.
 - b. *When a boy started seventh grade he bought a friendship ring for a girl. He spent much of his summer earnings to purchase it, but she laughed at him and threw it. Later she liked him, but he hated her for years.*
2. The gift Jesus purchased for us was the fruit of God's love and demands a response.
 - a. **I John 4: 19** – We love Him because He first loved us.
 - b. When we reject God's gift by sinning it breaks His heart.

III. We must stop trying to be accepted by the world.

A. God does not recognize a dual citizenship.

1. Many come to this country in search of its benefits, but want to hang on to the culture of their birthplace. (*Multiculturalism*)
2. LIKEWISE , Many come to Christ for forgiveness, but want to hang on to their earthly life.
3. Jesus demands that one cut all ties with the world or he CANNOT be His disciple.
 - a. **Matt. 6: 22-24** The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
 - b. No one can seek both the benefits of this world and of the next world.

I John 2: 15–16 Do not love the world or 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 desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world.
 - c. The Christians cannot even maintain a friendly relationship with this world.

James 4: 3–4 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. ⁴ 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.

B. When one becomes a Christian he makes a total transference of allegiance.

1. **Phil. 3: 18–21** For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself
- (cf. **Eph. 2:19**)
2. As Christians, we must keep our eyes on the homeland to which we are traveling.

Col. 3:1–8 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore

consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. **6** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, **7** and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. (*One can have only one central purpose in life.*)

- a. There are physical ramifications to crucifying and burying the old man. **Rom 6:1-6**
- b. The one who is crucified with Christ lives differently. **Gal. 2:2, II Cor. 5: 14f**
3. The Christian should expect his life on earth to be like that of Jesus on the earth.
(*A disciple is not above his teacher.*)

IV. Our focus must not be on the present.

A. Nothing on this earth is permanent.

1. Our lives are “a vapor” that rises for a little while and then vanishes. **James 4:14**
2. Everyone we know is temporary on the earth. (*Children, grandchildren, friends*)
3. The earth itself is temporary in nature. **II Pet. 3: 10**

B. Because the earth is temporary and our time on it short, we should live wisely.

1. *Anyone who knows his house is about to be destroyed, moves valuable out.* (**fire**)
2. We know this life is just a transition period so we should prepare for the permanent.
 - a. Treasures stored here will be left behind. (**Matt. 6 , Luke 12**)
 - b. Since we do not know when we will leave, we must stay ready to depart.
3. Temporary residents do not get comfortable in the land of their sojourn.
I Pet. 1: 17 – If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

C. Rom. 15:4 tells us that the Old Testament was written to instruct us. The Hebrew writer shows us how to apply those stories to our lives.

1. **Heb. 11: 13–16** All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14** For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. **15** And indeed if they had been thinking of that *country* from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.
2. The instruction for us is to live as citizens of Heaven no matter where we sojourn.

CONCLUSION :

A. So how do we deal with the sins in our daily lives ? Loving and trust God.

1. We receive forgiveness because God loves us enough to send Jesus to save us.
2. We must reciprocate and requite His love for us.
 - a. Our love is a response to His.
 - b. **I John 4: 19 – We love Him because He first loved us.**

B. The more we come to love God, the more we will separate ourselves from sin.

1. The more we learn about Him the more we will love Him.
2. When you learn about the awesome nature of God you cannot help but love Him.
** Thus, one must keep studying the scriptures because they reveal God to us.
Clearly, one who does not have a love for the scriptures, does not love God.*
3. The deeper our love for God the greater our determination to never let anything come between Him and us.

C. We don't gain the victory over sin because we impress God that we deserve it.

1. We can do nothing to earn forgiveness or to deserve a relationship with God.
2. We can't make it better by doing better or doing extra to compensate. (*can love God*)
3. God wants your heart devoted to Him. **Matt. 22: 37 ... love the Lord with ALL ..**
** The key to controlling our actions is to control our hearts.*

D. God wants an open and honest relationship with you.

1. Admit you need His forgiveness.
2. Strive to please Him and ask His forgiveness when you don't.

INVITATION :

Do you have a relationship with God ?

You can form one right now.

Come, surrender your life to Him in faith and obedience to the gospel.

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5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **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. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

Chapter 2

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; **2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*.

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. **4** The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; **5** but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: **6** the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. **7** Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. **8** On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. **9** The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. **10** The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. **11** But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name’s sake.