

The First Baptist Church of Columbus
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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted May 2, 2021

T I T L E: TEMPTATION: ENTICEMENT TO SINFUL BEHAVIOR

T E X T: James 1:13-15

Christ Knows What Temptation Is — C. S. Lewis made this insightful observations about temptation: "No man knows how bad he is until he has tried very hard to be good.

I. THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF SANCTIFICATION INVOLVES posted WITHOUT QUESTION A CONSTANT STRUGGLE WITH TEMPTATION.

A. Salvation is a "point in time and a once and for all event."

There is no such person who is someone who has been a Christian all his or her life.

B. Sanctification, however, is an ongoing process and involves quite frequently one's need to say no to temptation as often as one is confronted with the possibility of succumbing to sinful behavior.

Philippians 2:12–13 ---- 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

II. A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF TEMPTATION IS HELPFUL FOR ALL BELIEVERS IN TERMS OF VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION'S ENTICEMENT TO SIN.

A. Temptations are inevitable and universal from which no one is immune thus prepare yourself beforehand to say no when they arrive.

James 1:13... Let no one say when he is tempted... Each one...

There is more than likely a relationship between trials and temptations in the sense that human nature has a tendency to become more vulnerable to succumbing to the temptations to which trials often give birth.

B. Temptation is tempered by the Lord in terms of its strength to lead believers into sinful behavior,

1 Corinthians 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.

C. Temptations are often subtle, sudden, and surprisingly intrusive and as such require a reasonable amount of knowledge regarding the word of God and a spiritual sensitiveness to the ministry of the Holy Spirit if one expects to be victorious over the temptation.

Illustration: I was tempted this week to respond in an ungodly manner to a person who accused my golfing friend of being rude. Before I knew it the temptation was there to say something I may regret. At first the temptation was subtle in the sense that it sneaked up on me. It was sudden in the sense that it was unexpected and uncalled for and intrusive in the sense that it disrupted the atmosphere of peace in the club house. Then the Holy Spirit intervened in my thinking and brought the following verses to mind, fortunately before I said anything in response to his accusations.

Proverbs 21:23 ---- He who guards his mouth and his tongue, Guards his soul from troubles.

Psalm 141:3 ---- Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

Proverbs 29:20 ---- Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 16:32 ---- He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

Psalm 119:11 ---- Thy word have I hid in mine heart, That I might not sin against thee.

- D. Temptations tend to encourage us to rationalize our sinful behavior even to the point of blaming God in an attempt to excuse ourselves from personal ownership of our sinfulness.**

James 1:13 ---- Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

III. THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION WITHOUT EXCEPTION IS THE INNER MAN I.E. THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE PROBLEM OF THE HEART WHICH IF WE ARE BEING HONEST WITH OURSELVES, WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE A DESIRE THAT NEEDS OUR ATTENTION AS WELL AS THE ATTENTION OF THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE LORD. VV. 14-15

Mark 7:21-23 ---- 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

- A. The world, the flesh, and the devil or a combination there of are the three battlefields on which Christians do battle on a daily basis i.e. temptation.**
- B. Temptation per se is not a sin but succumbing to temptation is and will always bring adverse results in the life of the person who fails to say no to it.**

Conclusion: Dun Gordy, Notes from the Margins of an Old Preacher's Bible, (Circuit Rider Ministries, Leesburg, FL; 1997), p. 2

Eve (Genesis 1) v. 1 Listened, v. 3 was Lured, v. 3 Lied, v. 6 Looked v. 6, Lusted, v. 8, Lost

You are going to be tempted this week. How will you respond?