

Series: Faith in Action
"Who is to Blame for Our Sin?" # 3
James 1:13-16
1-24-16 Sun AM

The previous 12 verses we looked at trials from without designed by God to make us like Christ. This morning in vv. 13-16, we see temptation or the solicitation to do evil.

What determines whether the trial is a test or a temptation is according to how we respond. Right responses lead to maturity while wrong responses lead to sin and death [v. 15].

TT- I ask 3 questions from the text- Whose fault is our sin? How exactly do we sin? How do we keep from sinning?

I. Where Does Temptation Come From [vv. 12-13]?

A. Whose fault is our temptation and sin?

Satan tempts us and God allows it to move us to greater endurance [James 1:2-4].

Sin nature- evil desires within us [flesh].

B. We often transfer our guilt of sin to others.

We blame God [James 1:13, 17; Gen. 3:12]. We could translate this verse like this, "God must not be put to the test by evil people."

Many call sin a sickness or disease and we need therapy or counseling.

We blame others or our circumstances.

We blame heredity or environment [Ex. Of Michael Vick blaming dog-fighting as a culture thing].

I. Where Does Temptation Come From [vv. 12-13]?

II. How Does Temptation Work [1:14-15]?

A. Enticement- Satan drops the bait [v. 14b].

We have a fallen nature that makes us susceptible to temptation.

Each one? No person is immune from temptation.

We are dragged away compelled by an inner desire. Ill. of wild game being lured into a trap.

"Enticed" This is a word that refers to bait whose purpose is to lure the prey from safety to capture. Satan knows what bait to use and where to drop it.

B. Attraction- our inner desire is attracted to the bait [v. 14a].

Lust refers to a deep, strong desire or longing of any kind, good or bad. We have a strong desire to feed the flesh- sin begets sin.

"Own desires" let's us know the fault is directly with us, our unredeemed flesh.

Rom. 7:18-25 Paul's struggle

C. Conception- sin occurs when we yield [v. 15a].

A temptation is not sin unless it is conceived and gives birth.

Sin is the result of a four step process which begins with the emotions, the mind, and the will- look, think, and do.

1. *Desire*- we see or hear something that draws out a desire.

2. *Deception*- when we dwell on it in the mind and we rationalize having or doing it.

3. *Design*- We plan to do it. We make a conscious decision to pursue the lust until it is satisfied.

4. *Disobedience*- We disobey God's law and sin is born.

At what stage is it easier to deal with temptation? The earlier in the process we “nip it in the bud,” the less likely we are to sin.

D. Consequences- results of sin [v.15b].

All we see is temporary pleasure and not the future pain.

Wages of sin is death. Physical death is separating the soul from the body. Spiritual death is separating the soul from God. Eternal death is separating both body and soul from God forever.

The believer is saved from spiritual and eternal death, but if one persists in sin, he may pay the penalty of physical death.

Proverbs 10:27, The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Eph. 6:2-3, Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) (3) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

I. Where Does Temptation Come From [vv. 12-13]?

II. How Does Temptation Work [1:14-15]?

III. How Do We Handle Temptation [1:16]?

1. Separate from temptation-flee

1 Thess. 5:21-23, Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. (22) Abstain from all appearance of evil. (23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Select the right weapons- Word and Prayer

Psalms 119: 9-11, Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. (10) With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. (11) Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Eph. 6:17, And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

3. Control your thought life- think good thoughts, expel evil thoughts, and renew the mind.

Phil 4:8, Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Col. 3:2, Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

4. Resist the devil

James 4:7-8, Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Don't err? Don't stray, don't wander, and don't be seduced or deceived.

Let me close with this statement-

When temptation knocks, if we answer with the first Adam we will sin, if we answer with the last Adam we will not sin.