

# WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

## Fundamentals of the Faith

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### **LESSON #17 — MAN’S PROBLEM WITH SIN (PART 2)**

That brings us to the next major point in our outline: we want to examine from the scriptures the question: How does sin work in our lives? How does sin work in our lives? You might ask, “Why is that question necessary to be answered?” Well, just think about some examples. What does a great general do before he enters into a battle with the enemy, those who are opposed to him and his forces? Well, we know that he studies about those enemy forces. He tries to find out what their strengths are, where they're located, what their weaknesses are, and how he can best use the forces at his disposal to win the victory. So, he wants to know about his enemy, so that he can be victorious over them.

What about in athletics when you have one team playing against another team? The coaches of the respective teams look at the other team playing against others so that they can find out, why are they strong? Where are they weak? Where can we use our strengths to capitalize on their weaknesses, and win the victory? Just so it is in the case of mankind in our battle against sin. If we're aware of how the devil uses sin, then we can be better armed and better prepared, and through God and His Son, Jesus, and His Word, we can win the victory.

Well, how does sin work? Again, let's go back to the beginning. Let's turn to Genesis, the third chapter and verse 6. Genesis 3, verse six, and we'll see the avenues of approach that Satan used in the Garden of Eden. God says, “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and the tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” How did Satan approach Eve and Adam in the Garden of Eden? She saw that the fruit was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and that it was something that was desirable to make one wise. That's how Satan approached Eve in the Garden of Eden.

What about in the New Testament? Do we have anything that illustrates to us how sin works in the New Testament? Yes, we do. This is found in 1 John. 1 John, chapter 2, verse 16. 1 John 2, verse 16. God said through His inspired apostle, John, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world.” Notice the three avenues of approach again: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. That's the way Satan worked in the Garden of Eden, and that's the way he works today. So we need to be on guard. We need to be on guard against Satan and his approaches. If we know that he uses these avenues, then we need to be prepared and guard ourselves against his approaches.

It's rather interesting to lay those two verses up against each other, and notice the parallel, notice the similarities between Genesis chapter 3, verse 6, and 1 John, chapter 2, verse 16. And we have prepared a chart to do that. Let's look at those similarities. Genesis chapter 3, verse 6, 1 John chapter 2, verse 16. The first point that we want to notice is in Genesis 3:6, Eve noticed that the fruit was good for food. In 1 John 2, verse 16, God talks about the lust of the

flesh, that is, things that appeal to the body, things that appeal to the flesh. And that's how Satan worked with Eve. It was something that was appealing to her taste, to her body. It was food that she thought would be very good.

Alright, let's look at the second point of similarity. Eve said that the fruit was something that was pleasant to the eyes. God talks about in 1 John 2, verse 16, the lust of the eyes, things that appeal to us through our eyes. We need to be on guard. We need to protect our eyes and keep them where they need to be, and not where they don't need to be.

And then the third parallel, Eve noticed, or was led to believe, that the eating of this food would make one wise. It appealed to her pride. Satan said that it would make her like God, that she would know the difference between good and evil. And God talks about in 1 John 2, verse 16, the pride of life being one of the avenues of approach that Satan uses.

So we can take these 2 verses, and we can learn to protect ourselves from Satan. We need to keep our bodies, our flesh, under control. We need to be careful what we look at with our eyes. And we need to be on guard constantly against pride. That puffed up feeling that we are better than others, or we are wiser than others. We need to guard against that. Solomon said that, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." So we need to be on guard against the approaches that Satan makes to us through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. If you and I will be more diligent in watching those avenues of approach, we'll be more successful with God's help in defeating Satan and sin that he tries to encourage us to do.

Then still on the subject of sin, let's look at a final passage, this one found in the book of James in James chapter 1, verse 14 and 15. James 1, verse 14 and 15. "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin. And sin when it is full grown, brings forth death." Notice the process there. James had said in this context, that God does not tempt us. He does not do that. Satan is involved in this temptation business. But God doesn't, because involved in that word "tempt" is an attempt to lead someone to do something that is wrong. And God doesn't do that. But Satan does. But we can't blame it on Satan either, because we have a choice.

This verse tells us that we are tempted when we're drawn away by our own desires, and enticed, seduced, led into something. We have the choice, we can choose to give in to those desires that are wrong, or we can choose to deny those desires that are wrong. And of course, God wants us to deny those wrongful desires, and Satan wants us to accept them, and take them into our lives. So we are the ones who either yield to temptation or give into temptation. And when we give in to temptation, that is sin. And then he talks about the end of sin, or the result of sin, and we'll talk about that as our next major point, as we discussed that.

So we have seen that Satan works through sin through temptation, and he uses the three primary avenues of approach: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. So we need to be on guard. We need to be vigilant, careful, always watching that we might protect ourselves from those avenues of approach.

Then let's look at our next major point in our outline. What is the result of sin? What are the consequences of our choices to violate the law of God? What is the result of sin? Again, we want to go to the Scripture. We want to read from God's Word, what He says on this and all other subjects.

Our first scripture is in the book of Isaiah, it's in the 59th chapter. Isaiah chapter 59, verse 1 and verse 2. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God, and your sins, have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." Israel had a problem here. Their problem was that they were separated from God. But Isaiah says, the problem is not with God, it's not that God is not powerful enough to save you, or that he can't hear you. That's not the problem. What is the problem? Their iniquities had separated them from God. Their sins, had hidden His face from them, so that He would not, not could not, but would not hear them. So what do we learned from this? That our sins separate us from God. That's the worst thing in the world that could happen to any of us. We never want to be separated from our loving, merciful, graceful, just, and all-powerful God. We need him. We need his blessings. We need his love to live and enjoy the things that He has given to us on this earth. But our sins will separate us from God.

What are other consequences of sin? We just saw in James chapter 1, verse 15, that when sin is full grown, it brings forth death. Now what kind of death is James talking about? Well, we're all going to die, that's just part of the natural law of things. As a result of the sin of Adam and Eve, death was brought into the world and we're all faced with the possibility of death; the surety of death. Well, what kind of death is he talking about? He's talking about spiritual death; separation from God in the eternity. And we know from other Scriptures, that that means separation from God in the flames of hell. So the net result of our sins, if they're not repented of, is separation from God. We also see that in the book of Romans. Let's turn to Romans, the sixth chapter, and verse 23. Romans 6, verse 23. He says here, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." So the wages of sin is death. Satan pays his wages. Those who serve Him will receive what they deserve, and that is death. If we choose the path of sin, the life of sin, we're going to be separated from God eternally. On the other hand, in this beautiful verse, he talks about the free gift of God is eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and in our Lord Jesus Christ. We'll be talking more about that wonderful promise, as we go through this particular lesson. But the point here is, sin causes death, eternal separation from God.

Jesus said it in another way, in John, the eighth chapter. John's account of the gospel, John chapter 8, verse 21. John 8, verse 21. Hear the speaker is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "Then Jesus said to them again, 'I am going away, and you will seek me and will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.'" Jesus, of course, talking about the time after His death, when He would be raised from the dead, and then He would ascend back into heaven. And he said these people would not be able to go where He was going. Why? Why did Jesus say that? What would keep them from going to heaven, where He was going? He said, "You will die in your sin. And where I go, you cannot come." So if you and I die with unforgiven sins on our soul, then we're not going to be able to go to heaven. And the only other alternative is

hell, the place prepared by God to punish those who have chosen a life of disobedience, as opposed to a life of humble and loving, faithful obedience to God, and His beloved Son.

So the result of sin is it'll separate us from God, while we're here on this earth. And if we die with unforgiven sin on our souls, it will separate us in eternity from God. And the joy and the peace and the happiness that will be available to those who love and obey the Lord in heaven, in eternity.

That finishes the first four major points in our lesson number 2. We'd like to go back and briefly review those points, before we move on to the fifth major point. Point number one, we began with a definition of sin. It is transgression of God's law. It is not doing what we know is right. We looked, secondly, at the history of sin, several examples from the history of man, which show that man has had this problem with sin from the beginning of time, even up to the present day. Then, thirdly, we've looked at how does sin work in our lives so that we can be prepared to defend against it and and to defeat sin? We saw that Satan works through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. And then this final point that we've studied, number 4: What is the result of sin? It is separation from God. And if we die in our sins, it's eternal separation from God.