

THE REALITY OF LIFE

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23

As believers in Christ, why must we reject the temptations of the flesh?

Galatians 5:17, “For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.”

Romans 6:16, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?”

As such:

James 1:14, “Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”

What’s more?

1 Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

The reason why:

2 Timothy 1:7, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Therefore:

Romans 13:14, “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.”

Ephesians 6:11, “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Am I committed to follow Christ and reject the temptations of the flesh?

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THE CRAVING & GREED FOR MONEY & POSSESSIONS

*“Take heed and beware of
covetousness, for one’s life
does not consist in the
abundance of the things
he possesses.”*

Luke 12:15

What does scripture tell us about the crave for money and possessions?

Proverbs 28:22, “A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him.”

What’s more?

1 Timothy 6:10, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

As such Jesus said:

Luke 12:15, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Matthew 6:24, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Matthew 19:24, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Therefore:

Proverbs 23:4-5, “Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease! Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.”

Colossians 3:2, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Is my heart in Christ; or rather are money and possessions the gods I pursue?

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CONFRONTING SEXUAL IMMORALITY

*“Therefore do not let sin reign
in your mortal body, that you
should obey it in its lusts.”*

Romans 6:12

What does the Word of God affirm about sexual immorality?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, “This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God.”

Why?

Galatians 5:24, “Those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

As such:

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, “Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ... will inherit the kingdom of God.”

What’s more?

Hebrews 13:4, “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”

Matthew 5:28, “I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Therefore:

Psalms 100:3, “Know that the LORD, He *is* God.”

Colossians 3:10, “Put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”

2 Timothy 2:22, “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Do I crave for the world’s lusts, or do I rather abide in Christ?

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How does the Word of God warn us against false prophets?

Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

Why?

Matthew 24:24, "False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

2 Corinthians 11:13-14, "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan transforms himself into an angel of light."

Our only true and secure anchor being?

Psalm 119:105, "Your Word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

As such:

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Therefore:

1 John 4:1, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Ephesians 5:11, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."

Is God's Word anchored in my heart, so I am not deceived?

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THE TRAPS & SNARES OF DRUNKENNESS

“Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.”

Luke 21:34

Why must we avoid the dangers of drunkenness and likewise drug addiction?

1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Galatians 5:21, “Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Therefore:

1 Peter 2:11, “Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.”

Romans 13:13-14, “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.”

Mark 14:38, “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.”

Galatians 5:1, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

Do I choose to stay sober so I truly abide in Christ, or am I rather controlled by the world and its addictions?

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CONFRONTING OUR FELLOWSHIPS WITH THE WORLD

*“Have no fellowship with the
unfruitful works of darkness,
but rather expose them.”*
Ephesians 5:11

How does the Word of God warn us against fellowshiping with the world?

James 4:4: “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

What’s more?

1 Corinthians 5:11, “Now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, not even to eat with such a person.”

Why and for what purpose?

Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

As such:

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

Therefore:

2 Corinthians 6:14, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

1 John 1:7, “If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Is my heart with Christ, or do I dwell with the world?

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How must we live so we are victorious in the strength and power of God?

Ephesians 6:11-12, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places."

As such:

Romans 8:38-39, "I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

What's more?

Romans 8:18, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Therefore:

1 Peter 4:1-2, "Since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God."

Mark 14:38, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

Do I abide in Christ so I am empowered to fight the temptations of the flesh, and so live victoriously in Him to the glory of God?

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