

# The Believer's Relationship to Sin

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# 1. God's people are to resist sin

Psalm 97:10

10 Hate evil, you who love the LORD, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

1 Peter 2:11

11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

# 1. God's people are to resist sin

1 Corinthians 15:34

34 Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

James 1:21

21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

2. The Christian life is a constant struggle against sin

## Hebrews 3:13

13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

# 3. God helps His people to resist sin

a. Christians are released from sin through Jesus Christ's death

**Galatians 2:20**

**20** "I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 up for me.

**Galatians 5:24**

**24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

# 3. God helps His people to resist sin

a. Christians are released from sin through Jesus Christ's death

## Colossians 2:11–12

11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

12 having been buried with Him in baptism,  
in which you were also raised up with Him  
through faith in the working of God, **who**  
**raised Him from the dead.**

# 3. God helps His people to resist sin

a. Christians are released from sin through Jesus Christ's death

**1 Peter 2:24**

**24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.**

# 3. God helps His people to resist sin

b. Christians are to avoid sin through a new life in Jesus Christ

**1 Peter 1:23**

**23** for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

**1 John 3:6**

**6** No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

# 3. God helps His people to resist sin

b. Christians are to avoid sin through a new life in Jesus Christ

1 John 3:9

**9 No one who is born of God practices sin,**  
because His seed abides in him; and **he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

1 John 5:18

**18 We know that no one who is born of God sins;** but **He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.**

### 3. God helps His people to resist sin

c. Believers are to obey God in order to avoid sin

#### 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.

### 3. God helps His people to resist sin

d. Believers are to put to death what is sinful in them

**Romans 8:13**

13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

**Colossians 3:5**

5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

### 3. God helps His people to resist sin

e. Believers are to exchange a sinful life for righteous behavior

**Ephesians 4:22–24**

**22** that, in reference to your former manner of life, **you lay aside the old self**, which is **being corrupted in accordancance with the lusts of deceit**,

**23** and that **you be renewed in the spirit of your mind**,

**24** and **put on the new self**, which **in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.**

# 3. God helps His people to resist sin

e. Believers are to exchange a sinful life for righteous behavior

1 Timothy 6:10-11

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many grief

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

2 Timothy 2:22

22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

**3. God helps His people to resist sin**

**f. Believers are to allow the Spirit to direct their conduct**

**Romans 12:2**

**2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

#### 4. Practical steps for overcoming sin and temptation

##### a. Meditate on Scripture

Psalm 119:11

11 Your word I have treasured in my heart,  
That I may not sin against You.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and  
profitable for teaching, for reproof, for  
correction, for training in righteousness;  
17 so that the man of God may be adequate,  
equipped for every good work.

## 4. Practical steps for overcoming sin and temptation

b. Pray to God for help in trials and temptations

Matthew 6:13

13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'

Matthew 26:41

41 "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

1 Corinthians 10:13

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.

#### 4. Practical steps for overcoming sin and temptation

##### c. Actively seek good

Psalm 34:14

14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

Isaiah 1:16–17

16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil,

17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.

4. Practical steps for overcoming sin and temptation

c. Actively seek good

1 Thessalonians 5:22

22 abstain from every form of evil.

3 John 11

11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil,  
but what is good. The one who does  
good is of God; the one who does evil  
has not seen God.

# 5. Incentives for avoiding sin

## a. The fear of God

### Exodus 20:20

20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.”

### Proverbs 3:7

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

### Proverbs 16:6

6 By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.

# 5. Incentives for avoiding sin

## b. The holiness of God

1 Corinthians 6:18–20

18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

# 5. Incentives for avoiding sin

## b. The holiness of God

1 Peter 1:15–16

15 but like the Holy One who called you,  
be holy yourselves also in all your  
behavior;

16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE  
HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

# 5. Incentives for avoiding sin

## c. The expectation of Jesus Christ's return

### 2 Corinthians 5:9–10

9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:4–6

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

## 5. Incentives for avoiding sin

c. The expectation of Jesus Christ's return

1 Peter 4:7

7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.

# 5. Incentives for avoiding sin

d. Christians must consider the consequences of sin

## Romans 6:21–23

**21** Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.

**22** But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

**23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# 5. Incentives for avoiding sin

d. Christians must consider the consequences of sin

## Galatians 6:7–8

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

# 5. Incentives for avoiding sin

e. Christians are to be good witnesses to unbelievers

1 Peter 2:15

15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

1 Peter 3:1–2

1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

# 5. Incentives for avoiding sin

e. Christians are to be good witnesses to unbelievers

1 Peter 3:15–16

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

# 6. The role of others in avoiding sin

## a. Avoid bad company

### Psalm 1:1

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

### Proverbs 1:10

10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.

### 1 Corinthians 15:33

33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

# 6. The role of others in avoiding sin

## b. Follow a good example

1 Corinthians 11:1

1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Philippians 3:17

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 4:9

9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

# 6. The role of others in avoiding sin

## c. Believers are to support one another

### Galatians 6:1–2

1 Brethren, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

### James 5:19–20

19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.