

Overcoming Sin

(Romans 6:14)

- Introduction:
1. In order to become a Christian and to go to Heaven, one must die to a life of sin (Romans 6:1-8).
 2. We are to put to death the sins we once practiced (Colossians 3:5).
 3. But as hard as we try to put sin to death...it keeps coming back to life.
 4. Is there hope for those of us who share in this struggle?
 5. Do I alone battle sin, or do others share the same struggle?

I. Why Do We Sin?

- A. First, sin is avoidable and inexcusable (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7).
- B. Sin is pleasurable (Hebrews 11:25).
- C. Weakness (Romans 7:15-25).
- D. Ignorance (Romans 10:3; 1 Timothy 1:13).
- E. Carelessness (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11).
- F. Selfish rebellion (Jeremiah 6:16).

II. How Do We Overcome Sin?

- A. First, We Must Admit We Need to Change.
 1. Until one faces his sins and takes responsibility, he will not seek to choose to be different.
 2. Change is possible (Romans 12:2).
 3. This change involves obeying God, rather than our own desires.
- B. Second, We Must Permit External Intervention.
 1. We need the strength, love, and encouragement that comes from fellowship with other Christians.
 2. (Hebrews 10:24-25; 3:13; Galatians 6:1).
- C. Third, Put Positives Where The Negatives Have Been.
 1. Major in truthfulness, honesty, kindness, virtue, mercy...
 2. Pick new friends and new environments if necessary.
 3. (Matthew 12:43-45).

III. How Has God Made Provision For Our Failures?

- A. None of us will attain sinlessness, but as we mature and put into practice the above three suggestions, sin will become less and less a part of our pilgrimage (Romans 6:14).
- B. Enter Christ through baptism where there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1; Romans 6:3).
- C. After entering Christ, continually confess and pray for forgiveness and God will forgive us (1 John 1:9; 2:1).

- Conclusion:
1. You have a choice: You can either live in and eventually die in your sins (John 8:21-24), or you can put your sins to death through the power of God and live a life where sin no longer has dominion over you (Romans 6:14).