

Christian Growth—What is Sin?

Introduction

1. Guilt purposely perpetrated on Christians to keep them in line.
2. All action begins with a thought in the mind.
3. There is no sinless perfection for a Christian (1 Jn. 1:8-9).
4. All sin begins in one's thought process.
5. The only place that our thoughts are guarded is in Christ (Phil. 4:7).

The battle for our mind.

- A.** Lust, strong desires.
- a) Negative lusts.
 - i. From the sin nature (Rom. 6:12; 13:14; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 2:3; 1 Pet. 2:11).
 - ii. From Satan (Jn. 8:44).
 - iii. From the World System (Tit. 2:12; Jn. 2:17).
 - b) Neutral lusts (Lu. 15:16: *'fain'*; 1 Thes. 2:17).
 - c) Positive lusts.
 - i. Jesus (Lu. 22:15).
 - ii. The Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:17).
 - iii. A bishop (1 Tim. 3:1).
 - iv. Paul for Christians to mature (Heb. 6:11).
 - v. Angels (1 Pet. 1:12).
- B.** Sin is against God (Ps. 51:4; Hos. 4:7; 1 Ki. 8:46; 1 Cor. 8:12).
- C.** Sin is sin when God calls it sin (1 Jn. 3:4).
- D.** You cannot sin in your mind (1 Cor. 6:18).
- E.** Temptation (πειρασμός), to tempt (πειράζω): to try or test intentially for the purpose of finding what is good or evil: to assay all material. (cf. approve (δοκιμάζω) (Phil. 1:10; 1 Cor. 3:13).
- F.** Temptation is not sin.
- a) Jesus could not sin yet He was tempted (Heb. 4:15; 2:18; Mt. 4:1).
 - b) The Father allows believers to be tempted (1 Cor. 10:13).
- G.** A negative lust becomes a temptation when the Christian considers that lust a viable, workable choice: a potential action.
- H.** Temptation comes from one thinking favorably about a lust as a real option.
- I.** Temptation is not sin.
- a) Jesus could not sin yet He was tempted (Heb. 4:15; 2:18; Mt. 4:1).
 - b) The Father allows believers to be tempted (1 Cor. 10:13).
- J.** At temptation there is still the way out (1 Cor. 10:13).
- K.** God does not tempt men (Jam. 1:13).