

Christian Growth—What is Sin?

Introduction: The battle for our mind

1. God the Father wants all Christians to grow spiritually.
2. Collectively the church is failing (Rom. 3:23).
3. All sin begins with one's thought process.
4. Lusts are strong desires that can be negative, neutral or positive.
5. Sin is against God (1 Cor. 8:12 cf. Acts 9:4).

The thought process before an act of sin

- A. Sin is sin when God calls it sin, not a subjective standard (1 Jn. 3:4).
- B. You cannot sin in your mind (1 Cor. 6:18).
- C. Temptation (*πειρασμός*), to tempt (*πειράζω*): to try or test intestinally for the purpose of finding what is good or evil: to assay all material: good and bad. (cf. approve: assay for the good (*δοκιμάζω*), Phil. 1:10; 1 Cor. 3:13).
- D. Temptation is not sin; however, read Romans 5:6!
 - 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).
- E. A negative lust becomes a temptation when the Christian considers that lust a viable, workable choice: a potential action.
- F. Temptation comes from one thinking favorably about a lust as a real option.
- G. At temptation there is always the way out (1 Cor. 10:13).
- H. Temptation does not come from God: as source, agent or instrument.

¹³**Let no one say when being tempted, “I am being tempted (by any means) from God.” For God is incapable of being tempted by unprofitable things and He Himself tempts no one** (Jam. 1:13).

- I. One makes a lust his own before it becomes temptation.

¹⁴ **But each one is being tempted, when he is drawn out and lured as with bait by his very own lust** (Jam. 1:14).
- J. When one determines to commit a sin act, he then gives birth to sin.

¹⁵ **Then this lust, having conceived bears sin (like giving birth to a child) and this sin when having been fully formed brings forth death** (Jam. 1:15).

