

Christian Growth

Introduction and Review: The battle for our mind

1. Spiritual enemies put thoughts in our minds (Acts 5:3).
2. Sin is against God (1 Cor. 8:12 *cf.* Acts 9:4).
3. Sin is sin when God calls it sin, not a subjective standard (1 Jn. 3:4).
4. The thought process:
 - A lust comes from one of our three spiritual enemies.
 - Temptation: making the lust your own.
 - Trespass: determining to do it.
 - Sin doing it: an act.

Misused passages

A. Claiming that "you can sin in your heart" (Mt. 5:28-30).

- a) Context: a Millennial passage-stricter rules (Mt. 4:17; 5:3; Ps. 37:7, 9-11; 21-22; 28-29, 34).
- b) The heart: a metaphor; a figure of speech describing a humans use of:
 - i. Mind (Mk. 2:8).
 - ii. Emotion (Jn. 14:1).
 - iii. Will (Acts 11:23).
- c) Scandalize/offend not called sin.
 - a) "Looks" or glancing is an action.
 - b) The eye offends, not the heart.
 - c) A trespass: (*cf.* Mt. 6:14; 1 Jn. 1:9).

B. Other Mathew 5 examples.

- a) Roca (vv. 19-22).
- b) Jesus anticipates several more restrictive changes to the Law (vv. 22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44).
- c) Future time (v. 45).
 - i. God the Father not indwelling.
 - ii. They work for son-ship and spiritual maturity.

C. Jesus describes what defiles a man (Mt. 15:18-20).

- a) Thoughts put in action are what define a man.
- b) Adultery is not in the heart.

D. Other thoughts:

- a) If you sinned in your mind or heart why not just go ahead and do it?
- b) Where is the way out? (1 Cor. 10:13).