

The Christian's Racecourse

Defeating the enemy within—the flesh

- I.** To defeat the sin nature the Christian must: have the desire to have victory over it; know how this enemy operates; balance divine enabling with human responsibility.
 1. Have family relationship in order.
 2. Avoid mechanical approach—“steps.”
- II.** Understand Christians' role in the Head-Body relationship and embrace a slave-ship relationship to Christ (1 Cor. 7:19-23).
 1. We were called to salvation (Rom. 8:30).
 2. Although not a slave physically, *called* to be a slave spiritually to Christ (1 Cor. 7:22).
 3. New Testament examples: Paul (Rom. 1:1 *et al*); James (Jam. 1:1); Peter (2 Pet. 1:1); Jude (Ju. 1:1); John (Rev. 1:1).
 4. The flesh-mind is in opposition to holding on to the concept that Christ is the Head (Col. 2:18-19).
- III.** The Christian is to present his body a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1)
 1. The human body and its appetites is the area that the sin nature attacks (1 Pet. 2:11).
 2. The body is not saved (1 Cor. 15:53-54).
- IV.** The Christian is to order his lifestyle by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:17). περιπατέω *parapateo*, is a present imperative: be ordering your lifestyle. “Lifestyle” is one's general manner of living.
 1. We can have a new quality of lifestyle (Rom. 6:4).
 2. This lifestyle is different from unsaved (1 Cor. 3:3).
 3. A lifestyle based on our salvation (1 Cor. 7:17; Eph. 4:1).
 4. A lifestyle designed for good works (Eph. 2:10).
 5. Suggested additional study: Col. 1:10; 2:6; 3:7; 4:5; 1 Thes. 2:11-12; 4:1, 12; 2 Thes. 3:6, 11; 1 Pet. 5:8; 1 Jn. 1:6; 3 Jn. 4.
- V.** The Christian has the responsibility, obligation to overcome the sin nature. This pleases both Father and the Son.