

SERMON OUTLINE James 1:12-15

How to Kill Sin

THE SANCTIFYING POWER OF A SUPERIOR AFFECTION (12)

THE SANCTIFYING POWER OF UNDERSTANDING SIN'S BIOLOGY (13-15)

God Does Not Tempt (13)

Sin Tempts (14)

Sin Comes from Unchecked Desire (15a)

Unchecked Sin Matures (15b)

Mature Sin Kills (15c)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

When it comes to fighting sin, this is one of the most significant passages in the NT. In it, James gives Christians two important sin-killing weapons. The first is one we've already seen in a different form—a proper evaluation of both sin and righteousness and their outcomes. And the second is new in James—a description of the life-cycle of sin. What gifts of grace!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Some have compared the fight for holiness to camping (unnecessarily choosing to make life unnecessarily hard). Pastor Dave compared it to going to school (slogging through something entirely undesirable, but probably good). How would you describe your fight against sin?
3. What have you found to be most helpful in your fight to put sin to death? Is there a particular spiritual discipline? A particular person? A particular passage in the Bible?
4. Have you ever heard of the sanctifying power of a superior affection? What do you think of it? Does it seem helpful? Do God's promises seem clearly better than sin's promises? How appealing is the crown of life?
5. Have you ever felt like God was tempting you? Have you ever felt like someone else caused you to sin? How does this passage help you rethink your answer to these two questions?
6. Can you think of any ways that understanding "sin's life-cycle" would be helpful in your fight against sin?
7. How have you found sin "maturing" in your life? Is more mature sin easier or harder to kill?
8. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

9. Try to identify as clearly as possible your approach to sin. Spend some time thinking and praying about what you do when temptation comes your way. Find one specific way to make your current approach more in line with James's.
10. Spend some time reading this week on the crowns that God promises His people. Ask Him to help you value them more.
11. Try to figure out the places, people, or things that usually stir your desires toward temptation. Share those things with a trusted brother or sister in Christ that they might pray for you and hold you accountable.
12. If you have any maturing sin in your life, confess it to God and a friend. Remember the forgiveness and promises that are yours in Jesus. Remember what's really at stake in your choice.
13. Share these weapons with someone else.
14. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

15. Adoration. Praise God for being the Lord of life. Praise God for being a God of love. Praise God for being filled with mercy and grace for His people. Praise God for being more powerful than sin and death.
16. Confession. Confess your sins to God. Confess your failure to fight sin to the death. Confess your failure to help others fight.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God that He has secured your everlasting life and the death of all your sin in Jesus.
18. Supplication. Pray that God would save a non-Christian in your life from their sin. Pray that God would help a Christian in your life kill sin. Pray for the larger Church to grow in our love for holiness and forsake love for the flesh.