

Temptation - Reconnect - Nov. 7 2010

(show video - temptation - beard)

November - are you tempted to grow a moustache?

This week's evil inside is Temptation

Temptation - constantly bombarded, hear about, experience

What is Temptation? (ASK AUDIENCE)

Read Temptation definition

- *something that seduces or has the quality to seduce*
- *the desire to have or do something that you know you should avoid;*
- *enticement: the act of influencing by exciting hope or desire;*
wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn
- *lure, attraction, pull, seduction, inducement.*

Temptation categories: Food, Money, Possessions, Power, Sexual/Sex, People (e.g. cheat, gossip)

The Back Story - 1 Corinthians

Corinth: With a population of approx. 400,000 (100k to 600k are estimates) and being a prominent center of commerce in the Mediterranean world, it was a place for all sorts of vice.

E.g

- *temple of Venus (Aphrodite), which hosted 1000 priestesses dedicated to prostitution in the name of religion.*
- *close proximity to the city of Athens probably added the problem of intellectualism.*
- *The Greeks had a proverb about the city which tells a great deal about its moral decay: "It is not every man who can afford a journey to Corinth." Those who were worldly wise used the verb "corinthianize" to describe an act of immorality. "Corinthian girl" was known to be a synonym for prostitute*
- *such an environment had its effect upon the church in Corinth.*
- *It is amazing that a church existed at all in such a city.*

The Church at Corinth:

- *church established during Paul's second missionary journey.*
- *church negatively affected by the immoral environment found in the city. Pride caused division in the church and disruption in the services (1Co 1-4, 11).*
- *Immorality and immodesty found its way into the church, which gave it a*
- *bad reputation in the community (1Co 5).*
- *lawsuits amongst those attending (1Co 6).*
- *questions about marriage (1Co 7),*
- *debates over eating meats sacrificed to idols (1Co 8-10),*
- *women's roles (1Co 11),*
- *the use of spiritual gifts (1Co 12-14),*
- *what happens after death (1Co 15)*

The bad news about this church reached the apostle Paul while he was in Ephesus. This caused him to write this letter to the church at Corinth.

The Story - 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

(Read verses 11-13)

The warning: verses 11, 12

- *The link between Israel's experience and the Corinthian's conduct—v.11*
- *Paul's warning, based upon Israel's failures, as recorded for the church—v.12*
- *(1) The terms "stand" and "fall" are not used casually elsewhere in the Scriptures, nor are they here. To "stand" is to persevere in the faith; to "fall" is to fall from the faith.*

The encouragement: verse 13

- *Israel's failures need not be our own, due to the faithfulness of God—v.13*

Is Temptation Sin?

- *God never tempts men to sin (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:13).*
- *The same Greek word (peiradzo) is translated "tempt" and "test" in the New Testament.*
- *Temptation never comes from God, but from our own flesh, or from Satan. (James 1:12-14; Matthew 4:1-11; 1 Corinthians 7:5).*
- *Testing leads to faith and obedience; tempting leads to doubting God and disobeying His commandments.*
- *Both temptation and testing are prompted by trials and adversity.*
- *Both tempting and testing expose what is in our hearts (Deuteronomy 8:1-2; James 1:12-15).*

- We don't have to sin when we are tempted, but when we yield to temptation we sin. (Romans 6:16; cf. Ephesians 3:1-3).
- None of our temptations are unique to us.

Verse 13 Review:

1. God is faithful
2. We all experience temptation
3. We will not experience a temptation we cannot overcome
4. God always has an escape hatch - when you are tempted God will show you a way out

Paul does not speak of "a way out," but rather "the way out... Paul has employed the definite article ("the") here to underscore the fact that there is a "way out," and that this "way out" is not ambiguous, but specific. The "way of escape/way out" which God promises us should not be thought of in terms of a miraculous intervention on God's part. E.g. Jesus was tempted by the Devil in the wilderness, and there He "escaped" from sin

Our Story

Sometimes temptations are minor, so they are pretty easy to overcome, but other times the desire seems too great.

Here are some things you can do to help you avoid and overcome temptations:

1. Identify Temptations

- *Everyone is a little different, so it is important to know what temptations are difficult for you to overcome.*
- *When you know what tempts you the most you can be proactive about handling that temptation.*

2. Pray About the Temptation

- *Ask God to provide you with the strength to walk away from the temptation.*

3. Avoid the Temptation

- *When we know what temptations are being the most difficult, we can prepare ourselves for those situations.*
- *In some cases we can even avoid the temptation itself.*

(ASK AUDIENCE FOR SAMPLES OF TEMPTATION, THEN ASK FOR EXAMPLES OF HOW TO AVOID THE TEMPTATION)

4. Use Your Bible for Inspiration

The Bible offers advice and guidance, so why not use it?

Try to look up what the Bible says on your areas of temptation for inspiration and guidance.

(READ ONE OR TWO FROM SAMPLES AT END)

5. Use the Buddy System

- *Friend as a guide*
- *Friend to talk with/brainstorm*
- *Friend to hold you accountable*

6. Use Positive Language

- *What does positive language have to do with avoiding temptation?*
- *It actually has more to do with overcoming temptation.*
- *You need to believe God can help you overcome the desire to sin in order to actually overcome it.*
- *Avoid saying things like, "It's too hard," or "I'll never be able to do this." Instead try, "God can help me overcome this," or "It's not too hard for God."*

7. Give Yourself Alternatives

- *Verse 13 states that God can show you how to escape from your temptation.*
- *Allow yourself to see that escape.*
- *If you know your temptations, know how you can overcome.*
- *Give yourself alternatives.*

(ASK AUDIENCE FOR TEMPTATION ALTERNATIVES EXAMPLES)

- *Alternatives aren't always easy, but they can be the path God creates for you to avoid and overcome temptation.*

8. It's Not the End of the World

- *While avoiding temptation makes life a lot easier, it can be discouraging when we do give into that sin.*
- *We all make mistakes.*
- *That is why God offers us forgiveness.*
- *While you should not sin knowing that you can be forgiven, you should know that God's grace is available.*
- *1 John 1:8-9, "If we say that we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn't in our hearts. But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away,"*

Our Take home for Today

While avoiding temptation makes life a lot easier, remember we all make mistakes. That is why God offers us forgiveness.

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own evil desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. James 1:12-17, NLT

You may eat the chocolate

Did you know: The World's Largest Hershey's Kisses® Chocolate stands 12 feet tall and weighs 30,540 pounds. Built in nine days by 152 people, the giant chocolate is covered in 16,460 feet of the classic silver foil. The World's Largest Hershey's Kisses Chocolate celebrates the 100th anniversary of the iconic Hershey's Kisses Brand, and features a seven-foot-long plume that reads "100 Years of Kisses."

VIDEO - mouse and cheese

Closing:

Temptations are often hard because they are BOTH good and bad

E.g. (go to candles)

FIRE - light, warmth, fuel BUT too close and you get burned (PAIN, DESTRUCTION)

ADDENDUM:

List of Bible verses to help resist temptation.

Psalm 119:9-10

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

Psalm 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Matthew 4:1-3

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Matthew 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

Mark 1:12-13

At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild [animals](#), and angels attended him.

Luke 4:12-13

Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Luke 11:4

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.

Luke 22:40

On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation."

Luke 22:45-46

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 7:4-6

The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. I say this as a concession, not as a command.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Galatians 5:16

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Galatians 6:1

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

Ephesians 5:3

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

1 Thessalonians 3:4-5

In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Hebrews 2:17-18

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:13-14

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

(James 1:2-4, 12-15).