

Pastor Steve Williams | Our Sin Problem | 07.07.2024  
Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

## Day 1: Rules don't work.

Trying harder doesn't work. We've been baptized to "Walk in a Brand New Life", not a "now improved" version of the old life. The Christian walk is not about behavior modifications. It's about renewing our mind and being transformed to look like Christ, to think like Christ, and to act like Christ.

You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, "Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!?" Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires. - **Colossians 2:20-23**

**Question 1:** Why does living a life of religious rules not work for us?

Consider the most famous "rules", the Ten Commandments (**Exodus 20:3-17**). Now consider them as a mindset.

Ten Responses to the Ten Commandments :

1. Did God really say I shouldn't have other things important in my life? This thing is REALLY important. It does good. It deserves my attention, my time, my money, and my energy. I still love God. Maybe it's okay to love God and this too. I'll be in control of my life.
2. Did God really say not to make idols in my life? This thing will meet my needs better than God. I can see it, but I can't see God. Maybe God put this thing in my life to help me. I can serve God THROUGH this! I'll be in control of my own priorities.
3. Did God really say not to say His name? God doesn't mind how I speak. His name is like anyone else's name. I'll be in control of my own mouth/language.
4. Did God really say I have to give up a whole day every week? My time is my own. I can use it like I want. I'll be in control of my calendar.
5. Did God really say I have to obey my parents? Maybe when I was a kid ... but I've grown up. I am independent of my parents now. I'll be in control of my relationships.
6. Did God really say I can't kill anyone? I'm angry at that person and they deserve what they've got coming. It's not murder if they deserve it. I'll be in control of my emotions.
7. Did God really say I can't flirt with someone other than my spouse? This person will meet my needs better. It's not like we've done anything really bad. It's just flirting. I'm still in control and I won't let it get too far.
8. Did God really say I shouldn't steal? I want it. I deserve it. I work hard. It's not a big deal. They won't miss it. I'll be in control of my belongings.
9. Did God really say I can't EVER lie? The truth kinda looks bad for me. It's not a big deal to bend it to look better. It's just a little lie. It doesn't hurt anyone. I'll be in control of my mouth.
10. Did God really say I shouldn't want what others have? They have it. Other people have it. My life won't be satisfactory until I have it too. I'll be in control of my needs.

**Question 2:** Which parts of this logic sounds familiar? How does this perspective on the Ten Commandments make you think about the "rules" differently?

## Day 2: Identity

The lies of the enemy always lead to a twisted version of identity. They either make us think too high or too low of ourselves. Below is a list of identities the Bible gives us. Which of these do you struggle to believe in your heart?

| I AM ACCEPTED IN CHRIST   | I AM SECURE IN CHRIST   | I AM SIGNIFICANT IN CHRIST  |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am a child of God (John 1:12)</li> <li>• I am Jesus' friend (John 15:15)</li> <li>• I am no longer a slave, but a son/daughter (Galatians 4:5-7)</li> <li>• I have been adopted as a son/daughter (Romans 8:15; Ephesians 1:5)</li> <li>• I am a son/daughter of God and he is my Father (Romans 8:14-15; Galatians 3:26; 4:6)</li> <li>• I am an heir of God – a joint heir with Christ, sharing his inheritance with him (Galatians 4:6-7; Romans 8:17)</li> <li>• I am united with the Lord and am one in spirit with him (1 Corinthians 6:17)</li> <li>• I am saved by grace through faith and not of my works – I have nothing to boast about before God (Ephesians 2:8-9)</li> <li>• I have peace with God, and am reconciled to him (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)</li> <li>• I am loved by Jesus and freed from my sins by his blood (Revelation 1:5)</li> <li>• I have been forgiven of all my sin (Colossians 2:13)</li> <li>• I have been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of Jesus by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:11)</li> <li>• I am a slave of God and a</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am free forever from condemnation (Romans 8:1-2)</li> <li>• I am never left alone or forsaken (Hebrews 13:5)</li> <li>• I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3)</li> <li>• I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)</li> <li>• I have been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of Jesus (Colossians 1:13)</li> <li>• God's divine power has given me everything I need for a godly life (2 Peter 1:3)</li> <li>• I can resist the devil and he will flee from me (James 4:7)</li> <li>• God has given me spiritual weapons and spiritual armor that are mighty through God to destroy enemy strongholds (Ephesians 6:12-18; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)</li> <li>• I am strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might (Ephesians 6:10)</li> <li>• I can stand firm against every scheme of the devil (Ephesians 6:11)</li> <li>• I am confident that the work God started in me he will see through to completion (Philippians 1:6)</li> <li>• I have victory through Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57)</li> <li>• I am more than a conqueror – overwhelming victory is</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)</li> <li>• I am the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13)</li> <li>• I am the light of the world (Matthew 5:14)</li> <li>• I am chosen by God, holy and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4)</li> <li>• I am a member of Christ's Body and have a unique role to play in the Church (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30)</li> <li>• I am seated in the heavenly places with Jesus (Ephesians 2:6)</li> <li>• I am a temple – a dwelling place of God. His Spirit and His life dwells in me (1 Corinthians 6:19)</li> <li>• I am God's co-worker (1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:1)</li> <li>• I have been purchased with the imperishable and precious blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1:19)</li> <li>• I can approach God with freedom, confidence, and boldness through Jesus (Ephesians 3:12; Hebrews 4:16)</li> <li>• I am a child of light, not of darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:5)</li> <li>• I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special</li> </ul> |

# GoDeeper

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP, FAMILY, OR IN YOUR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY TIME.

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>slave to righteousness (Romans 6:18-19, 22)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God's family (Ephesians 2:19)</li><li>• I am a partaker of Christ; I share in his life (Hebrews 3:14)</li><li>• I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5)</li><li>• I have been bought with a price and I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:20)</li><li>• I am dead to sin and alive to God (Romans 6:11)</li><li>• I am a new creation – the old is gone, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17)</li><li>• I am a saint (1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2)</li><li>• I am righteous and holy (Ephesians 4:24)</li><li>• I have been justified (Romans 5:1)</li><li>• I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18)</li><li>• I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins (Colossians 1:14)</li><li>• I am complete in Christ and have all I need (Colossians 2:10)</li></ul> | <p>mine in Jesus (Romans 8:37)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I have overcome the world (1 John 5:4)</li><li>• I overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony (Revelation 12:11)</li><li>• Greater is he who is in me than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4)</li><li>• I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7)</li><li>• I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18)</li><li>• My name is written in heaven &amp; I have authority to trample over every power of the enemy so that nothing shall hurt me (Luke 10:19-20)</li><li>• I can find grace and mercy in my time of need, coming before God with confidence (Hebrews 4:16)</li><li>• I am assured that all things work together for my good (Romans 8:28)</li><li>• I am free from any condemning charges against me because God is for me (Romans 8:31-34)</li><li>• I am constantly being prayed for according to the perfect will of God by Jesus (Romans 8:34; Hebrew 7:25)</li><li>• I cannot be separated from the love of God that is in Jesus (Romans 8:35-39)</li><li>• I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)</li><li>• I am confident that the good work God has started in me he will see through to completion (Philippians 1:6)</li></ul> | <p>possession (1 Peter 2:9-10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit, fruit that will last (John 15:16)</li><li>• I have received all of God's promises in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20)</li><li>• I am God's workmanship, created to do good works (Ephesians 2:10)</li><li>• I am a partaker of God's divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)</li><li>• I was chosen by God before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4)</li><li>• I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life (Colossians 3:4)</li><li>• I am a holy partaker in a heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1)</li><li>• I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life to others (John 15:1, 5)</li></ul> |
|---|--|---|

## Day 3: Types of Sin

Sins of commission: Things we shouldn't do but we do anyways. (ex: don't lie)

Sins of omission: Things we should do but we don't. (ex: love your neighbor as yourself)

"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin." **James 4:17 ESV**

**Question 1:** What does this passage say about sin?

**Question 2:** What is the "one sin" that you're working on surrendering right now? Which type is it?

**Question 3:** Who have you spoken with about this "one sin"? How can that person help you take action today?

## Day 4: Consequence of Sin

Read the story of Achan in **Joshua chapters 6 & 7**.

**Question 1:** What does God say about the consequences of sin in this story?

**Question 2:** Does the consequence of Achan's sin seem too harsh to you? What does this teach us about how God sees sin?

The nation of Israel suffered for Achan's sin. His family REALLY suffered. When we suffer, it may not be that God is punishing us for sins. It may be that he is loving us so hard that he is trying to get our attention to get rid of a sin in our life.

**Question 3:** Why did God want to get the Nation of Israel's attention before they went further into the land?

As a leader, Joshua needed a lesson about the importance of monitoring the spiritual health of the nation. They were stuck and it was because of sin. Joshua could have acquiesced and allowed the sin, but that's what was stopping God's presence to bless the nation.

**Question 4:** How do you monitor your life and the people in your family? What is your current state of spiritual health? How might someone else's sin be impacting your whole family?

**Question 5:** How does the story of Achan impact your relationship with your "preferred sin" and your efforts to move away from it?

## Day 5: What does a “Mature Christian” look like?

**Colossians 1:9-12** – So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

**Question 1:** According to the verses above, what does a mature Christian look like?

Jesus said the summary of all the law was this, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”. It all comes down to allowing God to be God in all areas of our lives.

**Question 2:** Which parts of your life does God have FULL control over? Which parts are you holding on to?

The chief sin is pride. And pride leads to idolatry, first to ourselves and then to the desires of our heart. Idolatry is about finding security in something. We yearn to feel secure. We pursue idols in an attempt to find the security that only comes from God.

**Question 3:** What are you valuing more than God? Is it your own opinion? Is it the opinions of others? Is it your performance towards human expectations? What is above God’s perspective in your life? That’s your idol. What can you do to surrender that to God each day?

## Day 6: Exploring what Scripture has to say about sin

Read through the following scriptures and find what each says about sin. Consider the questions at the bottom for each.

1. James 4:1-10
2. Philippians 3:12 - 15
3. 1 Peter 4:1-7
4. Col 3:1-2, 5-10, 12-14
5. Hebrews 12:1-17
6. 1 John 1:5-10, 2:9-11, 15-16
7. 1 Peter 1:13-20 & 2:1-3, 11-12

**Question 1:** What does this passage say about sin?

**Question 2:** What is the “one sin” that you’re working on surrendering right now?

**Question 3:** Based on the verses, how can you take action towards your “one sin” today?

**Question 4:** Who have you spoken with about this “one sin”? How can that person help you take action today?