

## The Dangers of Passivity Towards Sin (Part 1)

### Genesis 3:1-7

*“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:10-12). “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires” (Romans 13:14). “Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth....Put to death therefore what is earthly in you....On account of these the wrath of God is coming” (Colossians 3:2,5a,6).*

- Genesis 2:5-25: “The Loss of Very Good”
  - Sin is the loss or the giving up of what is normal or natural. It is the loss of what is “very good”. In fighting against sin and delighting in God we take deep drinks of the infinite ocean of “very good” (Genesis 1:31).
    - 1) Acknowledging and worshiping Christ as Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16; John 1:3; Genesis 2:1-3) and running to Christ as our source of spiritual rest (Matthew 11:28-20) enables us to taste the “very good” of God. 2) Seeing the beauty of creation (Psalm 19:1; Genesis 2:8-15) and acknowledging that Christ is infinitely more beautiful (Psalm 27:4) and valuable (Philippians 3:7-8) than all of creation enables us to taste the “very good” of God. 3) Working (Genesis 2:15) with the mindset of thankfulness (Colossians 3:17) and the action of God-glorifying excellence (Colossians 3:23-24) leads to us tasting the “very good” of God. 4) When I obey God’s Word (Genesis 2:16-17), preferably with love and joy (1 John 5:2-3), I acknowledge His infinite wisdom over mine (Romans 11:33-34) and find the enjoyment of “very good” in submission to Him. 5) Submitting to God’s design in all of my relationships (Genesis 2:24) and obeying His commands in those relationships leads to my tasting of God’s “very good” design in all my relationships (Ephesians 5:19-6:9).
- The Tactics of Sin: Genesis 3:1-7
 

*“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death” (James 1:14-15). “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ....But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5; 11:3)*

  - Sin is the temptation to give up what is “very good” for something that is supposedly better. Part of the freedom to choose is to decide not to trust God’s wisdom and to decide to believe that God is not good, which is sin. To not trust God and to not believe that God is good is to lose our freedom of enjoying God and His creation and to become a slave to my sin (Psalm 34:8-9; Psalm 119:68).
  - Sin suggests that God’s Word is unreliable (Psalm 119:60), God desires to restrict us from joy (John 15:11), and delight is in our desires (Jeremiah 17:9) not God’s Will. Holiness says: “God’s Word is reliable, obedience to His Word is the pathway to joy, and God’s Will leads to eternal delight.”
  - Sin appeals to our emotions and our desires first and confuses what was previously clear. Holiness appeals to the clarity of God’s Word. Submission to God’s Word and faith in the reliability of God’s Word leads to our emotions and desires delighting in God (Psalm 37:4; Psalm 43:4), not His stuff or our sin.

**Worship:** I Stand Amazed (By: Norton Hall Band)    Bless the Lord, O My Soul (Psalm 103) (By: Sovereign Grace Music)  
He Will Hold Me Fast (By: Norton Hall Band)    **Closing Song:** My Worth Is Not In What I Own (By: The Gettys)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- Sin says: “Judge God and judge His usefulness to us.” Sin is instant, temporal, shallow gratification (Hebrews 11:25; Hebrews 3:13). Sin always holds pleasure in front of consequences. Holiness judges my emotions and desires with God’s Word and decides if they are useful. Holiness is disciplined, painful, and culminates in eternal delight. Holiness always tells us that suffering and difficulty comes before delight. Sin minimizes the consequences of sin. Holiness maximizes the worthiness and beauty of Christ (Hebrews 12:10-11).
- *Pilgrim’s Progress (John Bunyan; 1678) 9 Stages of Backsliding — Hopeful and Christian Discussing Temporary:*
  - 1) They stop thinking about God, death, and future judgment. 2) They give up their private disciplines (prayer, reading the Word, repentance). 3) They start to separate themselves from lively, warmhearted Christians. 4) They start to neglect the public gathering of the Saints and devalue the preaching of the Word. 5) They begin to become critical of Christians and excuse those outside of Christ. 6) They start to associate themselves with those of the world instead of Christians and start giving into private sins without repentance. 8) They start to publicly sin without repentance. 9) They walk away from God.

→**Prayer Points for Day of Prayer (Wednesday, April 27th):**

- Pray that you and your family will be committed to studying, doing, and teaching the Word of God.
- Pray that you be willing to speak God’s Word to the people in your life and that God will supply opportunities to do so.
- Pray that the members of our church body will be full of zeal to serve Christ and bear witness to Him in our community.
- Pray that God will grant many people in our city and in our nation the saving knowledge of Christ.

**Announcements:**

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of April we are collecting donations for Heartbeats. For a detailed list of the items needed, please look at the board in the lobby. There is a tote in front of the back table to put your donations in.

☆*THIS Thursday will be our LAST day to collect donations for Heartbeats!*☆

★**CHURCH DAY OF PRAYER:** Our monthly day of prayer as a church body will be *THIS* Wednesday, April 27. There are specific prayer points listed above these announcements for this day of prayer. Please set aside specific time on this day to pray for those prayer points, as well as praying for the leaders and ministries of our church body.

★**LADIES SPRING BRUNCH:** *Attention ladies!!* We are having a Spring Brunch together on Saturday, May 7th, at 10am. This will be held at Jen Kasson’s house (4390 Canyon Road, Granville). There is a sign-up list on the back table, *ladies*, please plan on attending and please sign-up to bring something to the brunch!

★**MOTHER’S DAY:** We will be having a Fellowship Dinner on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 8th, immediately following the worship service. The men of our church body will be taking care of making the food, setting up, and cleaning up for the Mother’s Day Dinner. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to invite our mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, or a special lady in our life to join us for the service and Fellowship Dinner on May 8th.

★**NEW MEMBERS MEETING:** If you are interested in or have any questions about church membership, we will be having a New Members Meeting on Sunday, May 29th, immediately following the worship service.

★**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are still looking for at least 2 volunteers to help with childcare for the Children’s Catechism Class on Saturday, June 4th, at 6pm. If you are able to volunteer for that day, the sign-up list is on the back table!

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner *TONIGHT* immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay and enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us.