Christian Doctrine Sin (Part 5)

How Can We Be on Guard against Sin?

Being on Guard

As Christians, we have been set free from the <u>power</u> of sin, and therefore are no longer slaves to sin (Rom. 6:6-7). Being made <u>alive</u> in Christ, we are now able to live lives of <u>godliness</u> (Rom. 6:13). Living godly includes intentionally taking a <u>stand</u> against allowing <u>sin</u> in our lives. In this lesson, let's see what Scripture says about being on guard.

Temptation

A definition of temptation is "being <u>enticed</u> or <u>allured</u> to do something that is <u>wrong</u>." James 1:13-14 says that temptation happens when we are drawn away by our own lust and enticed. Temptation can come from three different ways:

> The World

The "world" in this sense refers to the things in the world that oppose God. From I John 2:15-16, this includes:

- 1. Lust of the <u>flesh</u> (desiring things that feel good)
- 2. Lust of the eyes (desiring things that look good)
- 3. Pride of life (desiring to make ourselves look good)

> The Flesh

This refers to the desires we have within us to indulge in sin. Paul referred to this as the "<u>principle</u> of sin" (Rom. 7:20-21) and the "<u>old man</u>" (Eph. 4:22). It is this inner desire to sin that opposes the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts (Gal. 5:17, note vv. 19-23).

> The Devil

The devil is a master at using the world and our flesh to tempt us. He has a <u>strategy</u> (II Cor. 2:11), so we must be prepared for these "spiritual battles" (Eph. 6:11-12), and always be <u>watchful</u> for his attacks (I Pet. 5:8).

Facing temptation is not bad in and of itself. What matters is the <u>choice</u> we make in the face of temptation. Let's be prepared so that our choices reflect genuine godliness!

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Grow. Share

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