

1 Tim. 5:19-20 tells the church how to deal with sinning elders. "Rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear."

### **8 Questions to Work Through this Issue of Sin's Origin.**

1. **Where Does Life Altering Sin Come From?** James 1:12 teaches on enduring through trials brings a crown of life. V13-15, in a trial don't give place to sin. V13, temptation not brought by God, it is our responsibility. V14, we are caught and snared by our own desires. A lust or desire is a yearning to have what God has forbidden. V15, a life cycle metaphor: sin is birthed, it grows, then brings death.
  - a) Death is vague and not defined in this passage. It doesn't qualify the term for the unbeliever or believer. b) James uses progressions in chapter 1, V2-4, testing, endurance, perseverance, and maturity. In V15, desire, sin, and death. c) The redeemed in Christ are eternally saved but consequences come from sin. d) Death is all the consequences and destruction that comes in our lives because of our sin.
2. **Why are Men in Ministry More Vulnerable?** Life altering sin not limited to only pastors. The church members usually don't cause irreparable harm to the church. The devil is seeking to devour Christ's Church. The body of Christ can have confidence if the shepherds are qualified according to 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
  - a. Human Standpoint: the men are examples to the flock, have opportunities to have personal and vulnerable encounters with others. There are issues of loneliness and situations when people are at their weakest and going through relational issues.
  - b. Spiritual Standpoint: It is a hit to the Gospel. It embarrasses the "C" Church of Christ. It denigrates the church and grace of God. Paul charges Timothy in 1 Tim. 4:12 to be an example to the believers in his conduct and speech. V16, to take heed of himself.
3. **What Warnings Should I Heed in General?**
  - a. Be Spiritually Alert: 1 Cor. 16:13, "watch." 1 Pet. 5:8, "be sober, be vigilant." Look in the mirror and know your weaknesses. Aggressively pursue holiness and confess sin. In our thoughts don't let even a small thought enter in. In our work, be submissive. In our marriages, cherish, love, and honor our spouses. Avoid worldly labels that seek for "recovery" and not redemption and salvation from sin.
    - i. Prov. 17:4, an evildoer gives heed to false lips, a liar listens eagerly to a destructive tongue. - Don't entertain the sins of gossip and slander against others.
  - b. Labeling anyone by a worldly standard is reviling them. Eph. 4:31-32, redemption is the result of faith in Christ. Sanctification is the process to put off the old man. Be kind, tenderhearted, loving, and forgiving one another as Christ forgave us.
    - i. I John 2:15-17, 1 Pet. 2:11: tell us to not love the world and abstain from fleshly lusts.
  - c. Stop Playing Games with Our Own Sanctification: Start working on our weaknesses immediately and aggressively. Pray through those sins each day. Have accountability with one or more believers to challenge you on your pursuit of holiness. **The Bible is the answer to our counseling problems. Humility is the key to fight sin in our lives.**
4. **Place eternal value on humility because only humility leads to holiness:** It can happen to anyone. It starts small and harmless but grows if we cultivate it. Ask Yourself: i. What do I dread revealing about my life? What sin do I defend? Which sins do I hide? ii. Humility is the single doorway to go through to be more like Christ.

- a. How can I guard against sin in general? 1) A life of constant communion with the Lord. Prayer, study, meditation, living life in the church. 2) Submission to God, James 4:7. 3) Flight from sin, flee it, run from it, 1 Cor. 6:18. 4) Call sin what it is, Col. 3:5, idolatry. 5) Draw near to God, James 4:8. Confess sin to cleanse the heart. Cleanse your hands to change what you do. 6) Confess sin in Gospel confidence, 1 John 1:9, Ps. 32:1-2.
5. **What Warnings Should I Heed about Sexual Sin in My life?** Sexual sin is anything that provides pleasure of a sexual nature outside of marriage, Eph. 5:5, Prov. 5:15, 20, 9:13-18.
  - a. Each man(woman) should have his own wife(husband), 1 Cor. 7:2-3.
  - b. The marriage bed is to be honored, Heb. 13:4.
  - c. Why Marry? To avoid sexual sin and temptation. Young Men: work to increase value in preparation for marriage and grow up. Young Women: Pursue Christ, obey Titus 2:4-5, to love husbands, children, to be chaste and be homemakers.
  - d. (2) Tools for Combating Sexual Issues: 1) Self-Control and 2) Marriage.
6. **How Can I Guard Myself Specific to Marriage?** 1) Understand the root cause of sexual sin for myself. Do I look down at my wife? Do I cherish her daily? Do I fantasize about another real or imagined woman? Is Phil. 4:8 the position of my heart and mind? 2) Remember the "death" is James 1:15 that will come to all areas in life as a result of life-altering sin. Ask, "Would it be worth it?" **NO!!** 3) Don't coast on past closeness and intimacy, conversations, or shared life. Bring glory to God and prefer others. Have you ever thought about loving them for their benefit and to honor Christ?
7. **How Can I Guard My Spouse from Sin?** 1) Stop playing games with the Bible. Love, honor, submit, and cherish one another as is commanded in Scripture. 2) Husbands to function best give her: **a)** love and cherish her in your mind and your affections and time, Eph. 5:25. **b)** honor her as a fellow heir and listen to her, 1 Pet. 3:7. 3) Wives: give him two things: **a)** Eph. 5:22-23, respect and submit to him. Stop complaining, show genuine love, a proper attitude. You are not his mother and not the Holy Spirit, be his wife. **b)** 1 Cor. 7:2-3, Prov. 5:19-20, intimacy. He is to be intoxicated with her love and to show and give due affection to his wife. How often? Whenever necessary. It is the primary way to guard the holiness of both believers.
8. **How Do You Handle Disappointment by Fellow Believers?** 1) With Grace, Gal. 6:1-2. In gentleness remembering what I was saved from. 2) With Prayer, prayer for the Lord's work to continue, for repentance to be granted (Rom. 2:4), mercy to be given, confess sin, not to suffer with a haughty spirit, pray for a lifetime of remembrance. 3) Believe the Gospel, repentance and the Gospel are not overwhelmed by our failures, Rom. 1:16-17. 4) Believe in the Sovereignty of God, the Church will be strengthened by a call to holiness, purity in its members and shepherds, increased faithfulness in the shepherds, cherishing of husbands and wives, resolved conflicts, sanctification for the church.
9. **What Will Be the Effect at GBCOB?** 1) The members will be terrified of hidden sin. 2) Prayer for husbands to love their wives. 3) Wives to love and be intimate with husbands. 4) Children to see the consequences of sin in their lives. 5) Self-examination in all areas.
10. **What Will You Do with This?** Life changing lesson. Pursuit of holiness. Godly marriages: husbands tender towards wives. Sobriety, humility, and confession of sin.