

Warning!

Have you ever noticed how people tend to ignore warnings? We know something could be potentially harmful to us, but for some reason, we simply choose to ignore it. Take for example, cigarettes. On every pack of cigarettes is a very clear warning that smoking is very dangerous for our health- and could cause death. Yet countless people ignore the warning, buy the cigarettes, smoke, develop cancer and die before their time.



Other consequences are not so obvious, but are nevertheless certain. For instance, how often are we reminded to eat the right foods and not the wrong ones? But after years of ignoring these warnings, those who do not care reap the consequences in the form of heart disease or other serious health problems.

Thou Shall not...

Similarly, God has given us very clear warnings in His Word about the dangers of sin. And just as we cannot take lightly warnings in our natural world, how much more should we pay attention to the things God warns us about? So in this lesson, we are going to learn about the following warnings regarding sin: 1) It hinders our relationship with God; 2) It controls us; 3) It is very deceptive.



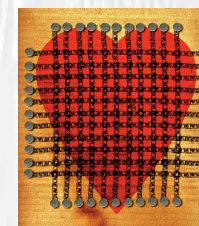
It is very easy to understand why sin hinders our relationship with God. It is because of what sin is. Sin is an act against God. It is rebellion against His divine order. So when we do something against Him, we naturally lose our peace with Him, the very peace that rules our lives. A flood of guilt and shame come and take its place.

We can clearly see this in the lives of Adam and Eve. What happened when they sinned? They became so ashamed, they tried to hide themselves from the presence of God. They actually became separated from God.

Does a Christian lose his salvation every time he sins? No! Our salvation is a lot more secure than that! However, a Christian must deal with their sins, ask God to forgive them, and turn from them. Otherwise, we will reap a very bad harvest. Please see the accompanying study guide for a more in depth discussion on this matter!

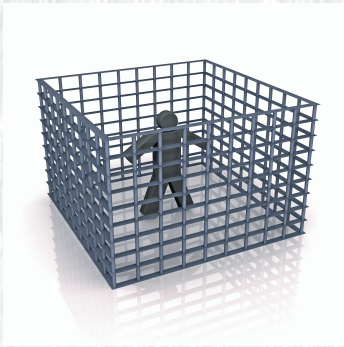
Sin Controls us

God also warns us in His Word about the controlling nature of sin. Consider what Romans 6:16 says. It says that to whomever we yield ourselves servants to obey, we become their slaves, whether sin leading to death or obedience leading to righteousness.



And this is what makes sin so dangerous! Sin appeals to our sinful nature. And when we take this step and participate with this sin, ok- perhaps we receive temporary satisfaction.

But what happens after that? The very thing that we thought would satisfy us ends up controlling us so that it then becomes a battle not give in to it.



Consider pornography for a moment. Everyone knows it is a temptation for a man to view a scantily dressed- or an undressed woman. Lets just say that the man gives into this temptation privately on the Internet. Before he knows it, this act done in secret soon starts controlling his attention to where he looks at woman in a completely unholy manner wherever he goes.

And that is the way sin is, whether it is lust, anger, pride, alcohol, envy and so on. When we open ourselves to these things, we put ourselves in bondage to them.

Sin is Deceptive

Another major warning concerning sin is that it is deceptive. You don't think that temptation to sin is accompanied with big neon lights flashing "warning," do you?! Of course not! Instead, sin is made to seem normal, desirable, acceptable and even the answer to our prayers. It is a solution to a need or a longing in our lives. It promises to make us happy and satisfy us. But like fisherman's bait, it is only intended to snare us and to destroy the life of God in us.

Separation, bondage and deception: these are three very good reasons you will want to stay away from sin. Does Jesus help us in the middle of our temptation, or even when we fail? You bet! See the promises in Hebrews 4:14-16 and 1 John 1:9 & 2:2. Is there victory over sin? You bet! Jesus not only died for our sins. He provides us with a new Spirit so we can walk victorious over sin in this life. You can more learn about this victory in the lesson called, "Victory over Sin." May God richly bless you as you continue to seek Him!

www.faith-without-walls.com

© 2013 Robert Arnold.

The Sin Trap



Sponsored by:

Faith without Walls