

Do We Have to Sin?

Introduction

1. **Many people wonder if man has to sin.**
2. **The discussion comes about when one looks at the temptation of Jesus.**
3. **It is reasoned that "Jesus was tempted like we are, yet He was without sin".**

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

4. **A reading of the temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 will show that He was tempted through three avenues.**
 - A. **See if you can pick out these three avenues. They are the same three in which we are tempted today.**

The Temptation of Jesus

Matthew 4:1-11

1. **The three avenues.**
 - A. **Lust of the flesh (Verse 3)**
 - B. **Pride of life (Verse 6)**
 - C. **Lust of the eyes (Verses 8-9)**
 - 1) **Notice the words of John:**
1 John 2:14-17
 - a. "works of the world are evil" (**John 7:7**)
 2. **Jesus did not give into the temptation of the devil.**
 - A. **Jesus proved that we too can overcome sin through His word.**
 - 1) **Each time He was tempted He said "it is written".**
 - B. **He resisted the devil through the word and the devil fled from Him.**
- James 4:7-8 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
3. **We can see that there was nothing miraculous about Jesus not sinning on this occasion; He just did not give into the devil's temptation.**

Do We Have to Sin?

1. The answer is NO.

A. We don't have to sin. We too can resist the devil just as Jesus did (James 4:7-8).

2. God will always allow a way of escape.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

A. The problem is many people don't look for the escape route.

3. Therefore it is not a question of "Do we have to sin?" but "Do we sin?"

A. The answer to that question is summed up in three points.

Do We Sin?

1. All Have Sinned.

A. Every person who reaches the age of accountability before God is said to be a sinner.

Romans 3:23

B. Sin comes about when we commit sin and transgress the law of God.

1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

2. Sin Has Pleasure.

- A. Moses chose the way of escape and would not enjoy the pleasure that sin would bring for a season.**

Hebrews 11:25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

- B. Man likes sins and the evil things a person wants becomes the problem. James said:**

James 1:14-15

- 1) **“enticed” – to attract by offering hope of reward or pleasure; tempt.**

3. We Are Sinners By Choice.

- A. We are free moral agents and can obey God or mammon.**

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- B. We are not born a sinner but become sinners by omitting doing what God says or committing acts of unrighteousness.**

1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

1 John 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin.....

C. We make the choice.

- 1) **Is there any among us today that would say "I have never sinned" or "I cannot sin"? John said:
1 John 1:8-10**
- 2) **To claim that man can live a life totally free from sin would not only be calling God a liar but also all the prophets and Bible men of the past.**

a. In Solomon's prayer to God, he said:

1 Kings 8:46 "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near;

b. In Proverbs he wrote:

Proverbs 20:9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?

c. David said:

Psalms 143:2 Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no one living is righteous.

- **How are we justified?**

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Conclusion

1. We are justified "by faith" (faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. - Rom 10:17)

A. Having faith in God's word we then KNOW that we do sin!

James 1:15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

B. Knowing that we do sin then we need to get rid of that sin in our life - but how?

2. By repenting, confessing Christ, and being buried with Him in baptism in representation of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

A. Only then can our sins be washed away.

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

3. No man would dare call God a liar because John said:

1 John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

4. Won't you have total faith in God's word and allow Christ's blood to wash away your sins today?

