

# How to Kill Persistent Sin – Battle Lines – Romans 6:12-14

## *Message Discussion Guide*

### Connect

- What seems to have a bigger impact on what kind of person we become, the bold promises we make or the steady habits we embrace? Why?

### Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Romans 6:12.
  - What specific truth or truths does the “therefore” refer to? How does that truth or those truths make it possible to not let sin reign?
  - Why would it be impossible to follow the command in verse 12 without the facts of the previous eleven verses?
  - When the Bible commands us to do something like “do not let sin reign,” what two facts does that imply? 1. It is possible that sin \_\_\_\_\_ . 2. It is possible that we can \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Read Romans 6:13, 19.
  - What does the passage mean when it says we have a choice whether to offer our “parts” as weapons for unrighteousness or as weapons for righteousness?
  - In 6:19, Paul says that parts offered to impurity will lead to “greater and greater lawlessness.” What does this phrase teach about the negative momentum of sin?
  - How does the end of verse 19 speak of the momentum of righteousness? What does that mean?
- Read Romans 8:12-14.
  - How would you put verse 13 in your own words?
  - What responsibility is assigned to the Holy Spirit in these verses?
  - What responsibility is assigned to the believer in these verses?
  - According to these three verses, what will be an authentic Christian’s attitude toward sin?
- Read Matthew 23:27-28.
  - The scribes and Pharisees seemed to do so many spiritual things well. Where did they go wrong?
  - How can we raise our game when it comes to spiritual disciplines and at the same time not become modern day Pharisees?

### Respond

- If you had a friend, who was caught in some grievous sin or shared with you that he felt very convicted about some major and persistent sin, but had promised with all his heart he would never do it again... He said he would swear on a stack of Bibles that he would never ever do that again... How would you counsel him to make a change that would be real?
- How would you be different today if you would have developed the habits of daily Bible meditation and prayer ten years ago? What are some specific holy habits you could embrace that the Lord would use to change your life?

### Bonus for Thinkers

- Romans 6:14 says that sin will not rule over believers because they are not under the law but under grace. What does that mean? Why is that important?

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## First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (10/21)	Romans 6:12-23
Tuesday (10/22)	John 8:31-59
Wednesday (10/23)	John 9:1-17
Thursday (10/24)	John 9:18-41
Friday (10/25)	John 10:1-21

# Daily Devotion Questions

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## Monday (10/21) — Romans 6:12-23

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

## Tuesday (10/22) — John 8:31-59

- John 8:31 says one sign of being a genuine disciple of Christ is that we do what? Write it down. What are two or three ways you can do that more this coming week? Pray that the Lord will help you be faithful in these areas.
- When Jesus challenged the Jews’ spirituality, they responded by talking about their past (descendants of Abraham). Jesus pointed out that while that was true, it was also true that they were trying to kill him. Jesus tried to keep their focus on the present. Without referring to some long past event, what will be some indications this week that you love Jesus?
- In 8:44, Jesus says the devil is the father of lies. What are a couple of lies you think the devil whispers into your heart and mind? Write them down. Ask God to remind you always of the truth.
- Life can be pretty hectic, sometimes frustrating, and occasionally fear-filled, but Jesus sorts it all out in one short sentence about eternal life in 8:51. Re-read the sentence. Write down a word or two about how that truth should change your priorities and clear some of your frustrations.

## Wednesday (10/23) — John 9:1-17

- It is hard to understand, but Jesus said this man’s blindness existed so that the works of God might be displayed in him. Think about some hardship or stress point in your life. Could it be that you have that so that in relying on God, he could be honored in the situation by changing you or in you overcoming it? Write down your biggest hardship. Pray and ask God to be honored in how that is handled.
- In 9:4, Jesus recognized the urgency of his work. There are some things the Lord wants us to do that have deadlines. Write down a couple things you feel the Lord is urging you to do soon. Pray and ask God to give you a sense of urgency about those things.
- In 9:6 Jesus made mud and then made new eyes. It is impossible to know exactly how this happened other than to just stand amazed at the power of God. The Bible instructs us to be persistent in asking God in prayer for big things. What are a couple of big needs, desires or dreams you have? Write them down. Ask God to do great things in those things.

## Thursday (10/24) — John 9:18-41

- The parents of the formerly blind man failed to testify about Jesus because they were afraid of what others might think or do. Are there some situations (at work, with family, with friends) where you are reluctant to speak up for Jesus? Write those down. Ask the Lord to show you how to be bolder for him in the two or three days to come.
- In 9:38, the formerly blind man professed his belief and faith in Jesus. This is the point at which he becomes a child of God. According to 9:38, what was the very next thing he did? Worship should be the passion of every believer. There are many ways we can worship God (Singing, praying, serving, telling others about him, etc.). Write down three specific ways you can worship him today. Ask God to help you be a worshipper in these ways all day long.

## Friday (10/25) — John 10:1-21

- The “abundant” life in 10:10 refers to the added blessings of life that are ours because we are children of God. Write down three blessings that are yours because Jesus has come into your life. Then spend a little time in prayer thanking him for these, and ask the Lord how you can tell someone today about how blessed you are because of Christ.
- The good shepherd does many things for the sheep. He protects them from danger, he feeds them, he guides them to the right place, he tends to their wounds and illnesses, he keeps them from straying, he rescues them when they are lost, and more. Of these things, which are you most in need of from the Lord right now? Write it down. Ask the Lord to do that in your life.
- When Jesus says he is the door (10:7, 9), he is talking about how he is the way to salvation, but also something else. At the end of 10:9 he says that as the door he allows sheep to go in and out. They go out for pasture (food). They go in for safety. Let’s focus on safety. Write down some ways that following Jesus helps us be safe in this life. What is one area of your life where you need to follow more closely for more safety?