

How to Kill Persistent Sin – First Steps – Romans 6:1-12

Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- Why do you think it is so hard for people to make real changes in their habits or lifestyles?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Romans 6:6-7.
 - In what ways were we slaves to sin before we became children of God (before we were saved)?
 - How has Jesus' death and our identity with his death changed our status as slaves to sin? Why are we no longer slaves to sin?
 - What does it mean that we are now freed from sin?
- Read Romans 6:11-12.
 - If Romans 6:6-7 says we are dead to sin, why does verse 11 command us to "consider ourselves dead?" Why is this command necessary?
 - What is the connection between the verse 11 command to "consider yourself dead" and the verse 12 command to "not let sin reign?" Why is the first command vital to the possibility of following the second command?
- Read Matthew 11:28-30.
 - What does Jesus mean when he describes the Christian life as resting and says that the demands of living the Christian life are easy and light?
 - Why do most Christians disagree (even if they wouldn't admit it) with Jesus on this issue?
 - How would you counsel a Christian who says that living the Christian life is hard and frustrating?
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Philippians 1:6.
 - What does it mean that the Lord will finish the work he has started to do in you (Philippians 1:6)? How does that bring strength and encouragement to you?
 - What does it mean that you are being "transformed into the same image from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18)? How does this give you hope even as you think about your besetting sins?

Respond

- How did our relationship with sin change when we were saved? What real difference does it make in our lives to really understand this change?
- How would you counsel someone who says they have a particular persistent sin that is impossible for them to overcome?

Bonus for Thinkers

- Romans 6:12 commands Christians to not let sin reign so that you "obey its desires." What does the writer mean when he says sin has desires? When we sin, are we following our desires or are we following sin's desires? Why does this matter?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (10/14)	Romans 6:1-12
Tuesday (10/15)	John 6:35-39
Wednesday (10/16)	John 6:60-7:24
Thursday (10/17)	John 7:25-52
Friday (10/18)	John 7:53-8:30

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (10/14) — Romans 6:1 – 12

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

Tuesday (10/15) — John 6:35 – 59

- In the ancient world, bread was the staple food people ate every day. It was a critical commodity because it did four things: Gave life, sustained life, satisfied hunger, and provided strength. In today’s passage, Jesus says that he is the bread. Write down two or three ways Jesus satisfies our hunger or provides strength. In light of these things, what can you do to embrace Jesus more today?
- In John 6:49-50 Jesus makes a distinction between temporary physical blessings (like manna which was bread God sent to the hungry Israelites during the exodus) and eternal spiritual blessings (like life which never ends). Of course, both kinds of blessings are good, but which is Jesus suggesting is better? What is one thing you could spend extra time praying about today to help keep your focus on the spiritual/eternal blessings you seek instead of entirely on the physical/temporary ones?

Wednesday (10/16) — John 6:60 – 7:24

- In John 7:3-4, the disciples were trying to convince Jesus that the time is right for him to go to Jerusalem and take a more public role as a national religious leader. Jesus refused in verses 6-8 because it wasn’t the right time. Jesus was sensitive to doing things at the right time. Write down one decision or change you have been thinking about. Pray and ask the Lord how you will know not just the right thing to do, but the right time to do it. Talk to the Lord about this long enough that you can write down one or two markers that will indicate it is the right time.
- Twice in this passage the people marveled at Jesus. In verse 15 they marveled at his teaching. In verse 21 Jesus said they marveled at his miracle working. But it is clear from the whole passage that they did not love or follow Jesus. So, there is a difference between admiration (marveling at his intellect and power) and adoration (loving him for who he is). What are some of the differences? How would you describe your relationship with Jesus? Is it more admiration or adoration?

Thursday (10/17) — John 7:25 – 52

- In 7:30 we see that they tried to arrest Jesus, but they couldn’t because it wasn’t his time. One lesson in this is that when God sends us on a mission, he protects and provides the whole way. So we should be boldly obedient to charge forth and do whatever the Lord is leading us to do with full confidence of his protection. What big thing would you do in your life this year if you knew the Lord would give you success? Write it down. Ask the Lord to show you clearly if this is from him. If it is then charge ahead with confidence.
- We see a very brave stand in John 7:50. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and had a reputation and career to protect. But even though it was a very unpopular and even a dangerous thing to do in his position, he stood up for Jesus. He boldly stood up to the religious and society leaders, regardless of what it might cost him. Write down two ways you could stand more boldly for the things of God in your workplace, home or school.

Friday (10/18) — John 7:53 – 8:30

- In John 8:8, Jesus wrote something on the ground that when the woman’s accusers read it, they each decided it was best to close their accusing mouths and walk away. The speculation is that Jesus wrote something that reminded each man of his own unconfessed, undealt with sin. Spend a minute and ask the Lord if there is any unconfessed, undealt with sin in your life. Make some notes. Spend some time talking with God about these sins.
- Jesus made a startling statement in John 8:7 that says something about the kind of attitude we should have toward those caught in sin. What are the first things that run through your heart and mind when you hear someone has been caught in sin? Write down a few words describing those thoughts. How do those match up with what Jesus teaches here?
- What great news we see in John 8:11! The Lord doesn’t condemn her. That is great news because it reminds us that the Lord doesn’t condemn us. But the end of the verse says the Lord expected that she would stop the sin. Think of a sin you repeatedly engage in. Write it down. Thank the Lord that he does not condemn you for that, then ask the Lord to show you how you can stop committing that sin.

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