

Man: Slave to Sin?

31) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33) They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

34) Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35) The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:31-36, ESV)

How does James define the word "sin?" Is desiring something morally bad?

13) Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14) But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15) Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (Jas 1:13-15, ESV)

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. (Gen 1:6, ESV)

What desire does the Bible attributes the moral qualification of good? What desires are associated with the natural and innate desires of human beings? Can you explain this phrase "everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin" to a teenager?

9) What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10) as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;

11) no one understands; no one seeks for God.

12) All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." (Rom 3:9-12, ESV)

16) Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17) But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18) and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19) I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. (Rom 6:16-19, ESV)

22) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24) For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25) But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (Jas 1:22-25, ESV)

How is money the root of all evil? How do you learn what you should desire?

9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim 6:9-10, ESV)