

Understanding Yourself – Sin and Temptation

Look up how others define sin: 1) Search “studylight holman,”
2) Find “s” and locate “sin,” and 3) See what other dictionaries say.
Did you find a good definition?

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. (James 1:14-15)

6) 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. 7) Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (Gen 3:6-7, ESV)

27) “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28) But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matt 5:27-28, ESV)

17) “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.” (Ex 20:17, ESV)

7) What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” (Rom 7:7, ESV)

22) And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. 23) For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.” (1 Sam 15:22-23, ESV)

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)

Observation: How Does James define sin?

What do you observe about Eve’s sin?

What does Jesus emphasize about sin?

What do you observe about the Tenth Commandment?

Why is the Law confused with sin?

What do you observe is the object of desire?

What is your definition of sin?

What is temptation? Use a lexicon! Go to: Blueletterbible.org:

- 1) search: tempt / tempted,
- 2) select an OT example like: Genesis 22:1,
click "Tools," click "H5254," and select "Show Strong's info,"
- 3) select an NT example like: Matthew 4:1,
click "Tools," click "G3985," and select "Show Strong's info."

22) Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. 23) When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. 24) And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" 25) And he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the Lord made for them a statute and a rule, and there **he tested them**, 26) saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer." (Ex 15:22-26, ESV)

1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted** by the devil. (Matt 4:1, ESV)

15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been **tempted** as we are, yet without sin. (Heb 4:15, ESV)

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. (Jas 1:13, ESV)

11) The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to **test** him. 12) And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." 13) And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side. (Mark 8:11-13, ESV)

6) Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7) And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they **tested** the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (Ex 17:6-7, ESV; John 5:30-42)

What do you observe: What is God tempting the Israelites? (Hint: Deut 8:2)

What do you observe: What is being Satan tempting Jesus?

Test your understanding of sin and temptation. Explain how Jesus or God cannot be tempted for evil desires. Explain how They cannot tempt you for evil desires.

How does a non-Believer tempt God?

What does it mean when Believers tempt God?

1) After these things God **tested** Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." (Gen 22:1, ESV)

What desire is God testing Abraham for? Could you pass this temptation?

18) Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off 19) and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." 20) Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, **for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.**" (Ex 20:18-20, ESV)

What is God tempting here? Could you pass this temptation?

1) "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2) and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' 3) you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. **For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**" (Deut 13:1-3, ESV)

What is God tempting here? Could you pass this temptation?

9) Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10) Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11) Give us this day our daily bread, 12) and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13) And **lead us not into temptation**, but deliver us from evil." (Matt 9:9-13, ESV)

What temptation is Jesus speaking here?

8) But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 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 6:8-10, ESV)

What do you desire? Why is money the root of all kinds of evil?

7) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Prov 1:7, ESV)

What is this fear of the Lord? What is this knowledge?

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matt 10:28, ESV)

5) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6) But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7) For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (Jas 1:5-8, ESV)

Who can pray for wisdom?

12) Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13) No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and **he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability**, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Cor 10:12-13, ESV)

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2 Cor 13:5, ESV)

1) Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be **tempted**. 2) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3) For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4) But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. 5) For each will have to bear his own load. (Gal 6:1-5, ESV)

1) But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2) I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3) for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? (1 Cor 3:1-3, ESV)

11) About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13) for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14) But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. (Heb 5:11-14, ESV)

1) I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3) For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4) and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5) As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Tim 4:1-5, ESV)

How do you overcome demonic temptation?

What is Paul saying?

What do you observe? How does this help you avoid temptation?

Why do we fail?

Why do we fail?

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