

1. Kinnaman, David *unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity...and Why It Matters* Baker Books, 2012
2. Groeschel, Craig *Soul Detox: Clean Living in a Contaminated World* Zondervan, 2013

THE FOLLOW UP

Be sure to get these **FOUR** devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done



Put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you... ~ Colossians 3:5a

DEVO #1—What Are You Doing with Sin?

READ: 1 John 1:1–2:6

A study done by the Barna Group, a Christian researching firm, found that Christians were just as likely as non-Christians to do the following: Bet or gamble, visit a pornographic website, watch a sexually explicit movie, have a sexual encounter outside of a marriage relationship, steal something, consult a medium or a psychic, physically fight, abuse someone, consume enough alcohol to be considered legally drunk, take illegal drugs, lie, work to get even with someone who wronged them, and gossip.

Barna further did a thorough 3-year study of non-Christians to determine their thoughts and attitudes towards Christians. This research found that 84% of non-Christians stated they knew at least one committed Christian. Yet, only 15% of those non-Christians thought the lifestyle of those Christ-followers was significantly different from their own!¹

Perhaps this is because many people want to add Jesus to their lives, but they are not willing to subtract sin.

1. What are verses 1:6 and 2:4 saying?
2. What does verse 2:6 say is necessary if you want to claim that you are a Christian?
3. If you were put in a room with a non-Christian, and people were asked to judge which of you was the Christian based on your behavior and choices over the last week, would it be an easy choice for the people to make? Why or why not?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for making a way out of sin for you through the death and resurrection of Jesus
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, living as though you can add Christ to your life without subtracting sin
- ~Ask God to work in you so that your walk matches your talk
- ~Ask God to mold you into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Review your thought life. How well are you obeying the Lord in this area?
- ◆ Review your language use. How well are you obeying the Lord in this area?
- ◆ Review your actions. How well are you obeying the Lord in this area?
- ◆ Review your attitudes. How well are you obeying the Lord in this area?
- ◆ Review your entertainment choices. How well are you obeying the Lord in this area?
- ◆ Based on these reviews, what needs to change in your life?

QUIET TIME CHALLENGE

NOTE:

The *Quiet Time Challenge* is NOT a devotional in itself. It is designed for you to do separately apart from your daily devotional time.

HOW IT WORKS:

Find a quiet place with no distractions. Make this between just you and God. Clear your mind then read the Bible verse(s). After doing so, work through the questions. At the end, spend five to ten minutes in "listening mode." Just ask God to speak to you and then be quiet and seek to hear His voice.

PART 1 — READ: John 14:23-24

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain these verses in your own words:

Since your love for God is shown in your obedience to Him, how much would you say that you love the Lord?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask the Lord to show you where you are living in disobedience. Then seek to hear God's voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — I'm a Good Person...Not!

READ: Romans 3:9-26

Perhaps you have heard people excuse sin by saying, "Well, I am not a bad person. Most of my choices are good. Sure I make mistakes from time to time. Who doesn't?" Perhaps you have even used these lines, or ones like them, yourself. The problem with this mindset, however, is that it masks or white-washes an eternally serious condition.

Sinning just three times a day will put us well over 1000 each year. The fact is most teens have sinned 30,000 plus times and most adults are nearing 100,000 or more sins! Unless we see ourselves as sinners, we will not see our need for a Savior, nor will we see our need for a daily relationship with that Savior who is the only One who can give us victory every single day of our lives.

1. What is every single person on this planet capable of according to verses 10-18?
2. What does verse 23 clearly state about all of humanity?
3. What is our only hope according to verses 24-26?
4. Have you been guilty of excusing your sin and treating it lightly?
5. How is your daily relationship with Christ? Explain:

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for providing all you need to live victoriously
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, excusing your sin as no big deal and/or thinking too highly of yourself
- ~Ask God to show you how much you truly need Him
- ~Ask God to go to work in an area of your life that needs the work that only He can do

DEVO #3 — Dying in Sin

READ: 2 Peter 2:12-22; Romans 6:15-23

Craig Groeschel writes, "You know the life and the power and the forgiveness of Jesus, but you step back into the destructive power of sin. You will be worse off than you were even a long time ago...The most miserable people in the world are not the non-Christians, but instead, Christians living in sin. Some of you, right now, you know this. The most miserable people in the room right now are not those who are not believers in Christ and doing whatever they want. It is those who are followers of Christ who step back into the destructive power of sin, and you are miserable, and you know it, and you ache because everyone else thinks that you are okay, but on the inside, you are dying in your sin."²

1. What do 2 Peter 2:19 and Romans 6:16 say about sin?
2. What chilling words does Peter use in 2 Peter 2:20-22?
3. With the above two questions in mind, why must Christians diligently guard against sin?
4. Look at Proverbs 4:23. How well are you doing at guarding your heart? How can you do even better?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for the truth of His Word and the wisdom that it can bring to your life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, becoming a slave to sin again after asking Jesus to set you free
- ~Ask God to help you guard your heart and protect your soul
- ~Ask God to use you to help others who need to be freed from slavery to sin

DEVO #4 — The Power of Sin

READ: James 1:12-27

Yesterday, we talked about the destructive power of sin. Why is sin so destructive? Because it is incredibly progressive in nature. It may seem small and inconsequential one moment, but then it grows and grows. In time, it kills, fulfilling the plan of the evil one who came to steal, kill, and destroy everything that matters to the heart of God. (See John 10:10)

This is how Satan works. He does not attack us with pots of boiling hot water. If he did, we would see it coming and run. Satan is too smart for that. Instead of coming at us with boiling water, he casually approaches holding a glass of seemingly cool and refreshing water. Once we have that glass to our lips, he slowly turns up the heat. Eventually we are burned without even realizing it until it is too late.

1. What is the progression of sin according to verses 14-15?
2. What two types of people are talked about in verses 23-25?
3. It is important that we hold a mirror up to our lives and allow God to reveal our problem areas. How well do you do that?
4. Why is this an important thing to do?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for His objective evaluation of your life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not wanting to allow Him to deal with the issues in your life
- ~Ask God to strengthen you to deal with the "little" issues in your life before they grow
- ~Ask God to work through His Spirit in your life to remove any wicked way within you