

Understanding Temptation: The War Within Your Heart

Mark Shaw

I John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (NASB)*

I. Introduction

II. How Our Flesh is Tempted by This World

- A. Our _____ is the Problem *Mark 7:20-23*
- B. World appeals to our sinful bent toward pleasing self (Gen. 5:3 & 6:5; Ja.1:14)
- C. Addiction is a DECISION problem of the heart. (Not a Disease)
- D. _____ in three areas: thoughts, words, and actions
 - 1. Matthew 5-7 – all about the heart
 - 2. Hebrews 4:12 – the discerners of the heart
 - 3. Prov. 4:20-23, Prov 23: 19-21
 - 4. Romans 2:4, Acts 11:18 – Provided by God's grace

III. Three Common Temptations

- A. Genesis 3:6, Matt. 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, and I John 2:15-17
- B. The World's System & Satan entice the three heart desires within us:
 - 1. C _____
 - 2. C _____
 - 3. C _____
- C. Satan's BAIT (from Genesis 3:6)
 - 1. To Do
 - 2. To Have
 - 3. To Be

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IV. Lust of the flesh: To Do (COMFORT)

- A. Temptation to do anything you want to do (no limits)
- B. Accusation against God's G_____
- C. Satan in Matthew 4:3
- D. Jesus in Matthew 4:4
- E. The only answer is to read and obey the Word of God over and above one's own feelings
- *Antidote of the Lust of the Flesh is obeying the W_____

V. Lust of the eyes: To Have (COVETOUSNESS)

- A. Temptation to have anything you desire to possess (no limits)
- B. Accusation against God's W_____
- C. Satan in Luke 4:5-7
- D. Jesus in Luke 4:8
- E. The only answer is to serve God and worship Him alone
- * Antidote to the Lust of the Eyes is W_____

VI. Pride of Life: To Be (LOVE OF CONTROL)

- A. Temptation to be anything you want to be (no limits)
- B. Accusation against God's S_____
- C. Satan to Jesus in Luke 4:9-11
- D. Jesus to Satan in Luke 4:12
- E. Only answer is Submission
- *Antidote to the Pride of Life is the W_____ of G_____

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VII. “Addiction” Manifestations¹

A. Gambling (I Tim. 6:10; 2 Tim. 3:2)

1. Lust of the Flesh –
2. Lust of the Eyes –
3. Pride of Life –

B. Drugs and Alcohol (Prov. 23:29-35; Eph. 5:18-21)

1. Lust of Flesh –
2. Lust of Eyes –
3. Pride of Life –

VIII. Stages of Addiction

IX. Empowered by Christ

A. All temptations have been defeated by Jesus (Heb. 4:15)

B. The Holy Spirit inside of a Christian gives the power to will and to do what God requires (Phil 2:12-13)

C. Identify the preference to sin in your counselee

D. Then, emphasize the three specific solutions for that specific temptation: WORD, WORSHIP, and WILL of GOD

E. Ultimately, the goal is to become more like Christ for God’s glory!

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¹ The Addiction Connection at www.theaddictionconnection.org offers more in-depth counselor training.

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Resources Corresponding with this Presentation

Understanding Temptation: The War Within Your Heart, Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing, 2014.

The Heart of Addiction: a Biblical Perspective, Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing, 2008. With *The Heart of Addiction Workbook* and *The Heart of Addiction Leader's Guide* 2013.

Other Recommended Resources by Mark Shaw

Addiction-Proof Parenting: Biblical Prevention Strategies, Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing, 2010.

Divine Intervention: Hope and Help for Families of Addicts, Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing, 2008.

How Not to Raise an Addict: Biblical Prevention Strategies, Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing, 2017.

Relapse: Biblical Prevention Strategies, Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing, 2011.