

DEVICE 12: Satan tries to get us to stay in the wrong crowd.

Remedy 1 – Cause your mind to dwell on the commands of God that tell us to shun the community of the wicked (¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. **Ephesians 5:11** (ESV); ¹⁴I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation.” ¹⁵Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. **Proverbs 5:14–15** (ESV); ⁹I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. **1 Corinthians 5:9–11** (ESV); ⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. **2 Thessalonians 3:6** (ESV); ¹⁰My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. ¹¹If they say, “Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; ¹²like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; ¹³we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; ¹⁴throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse”— ¹⁵my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, **Proverbs 1:10–15** (ESV)).

Remedy 2 – Think of companionship with those who are actively committing sin as spiritual infection of sin (³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” **1 Corinthians 15:32** (ESV); ¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; **Psalm 1:1** (ESV)).

Remedy 3 – Use the same terms for wicked people that the scripture uses - The Scripture calls them **lions** for their fierceness, and **bears** for their cruelty, and **dragons** for their hideousness, and **dogs** for their filthiness, and **wolves** for their subtleness. The Scripture styles them scorpions, vipers, thorns, briars, thistles, brambles, stubble, dirt, chaff, dust, dross, smoke, scum. (¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. **2 Timothy 4:17** (ESV); ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. **Isaiah 11:7** (ESV); ¹⁰Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. **Ezekiel 3:10** (ESV); ⁶“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you. **Matthew 7:6** (ESV); ¹⁵Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. **Revelation 22:15** (ESV); ³²And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. **Luke 13:32** (ESV); ¹⁷The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame, and it will burn and devour his thorns and briars in one day. **Isaiah 10:17** (ESV); ⁶And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. **Ezekiel 2:6** (ESV); ¹⁴Then all the trees said to the bramble, ‘You come and reign over us.’ **Judges 9:14** (ESV); ¹⁸That they are like straw before the wind, and like chaff that the storm carries away? **Job 21:18** (ESV); ¹³O my God, make them like whirling dust, like chaff before the wind. **Psalm 83:13** (ESV); ⁴²I beat them fine as dust before the wind; I cast them out like the mire of the streets. **Psalm 18:42** (ESV); ¹⁸“Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to me; all of them are bronze and tin and iron and lead in the furnace; they are dross of silver. **Ezekiel 22:18** (ESV); ¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord God: Because you have all become dross, therefore, behold, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. **Ezekiel 22:19** (ESV); ⁵who say, “Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.” These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day. **Isaiah 65:5** (ESV); ⁶“Therefore thus says the Lord God: Woe to the bloody city, to the pot whose corrosion is in it, and whose corrosion has not gone out of it! Take out of it piece after piece, without making any choice. **Ezekiel 24:6** (ESV)). It is not safe to look upon wicked men under the names and notions which they use for themselves.

Remedy 4 – Look at the record of scripture to see that many followers of the true God found wicked people were a great cause of grief. (⁵Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar! ⁶Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace. **Psalm 120:5–6** (ESV); ²Oh that I had in the desert a travelers’ lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a company of treacherous men. **Jeremiah 9:2** (ESV)].

Questions

1. *What is likely to happen to a Christian who spends most of his time with people when they are sinning?*
2. *What does the Bible say? (Remedy 1)*
3. *What names does the scripture have for people who make it a regular practice to sin? (Remedy 3)*