



HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AGAINST SIN?

Introduction:

- A. **(Slide #2)** Sin -- A Reality That We All Know That It Exists; A Struggle That We Always Have In Our Own Lives.
- B. **(Slide #3)** An Interesting Analogy:
 - 1. People are SO concerned about protection in everyday life; yet when it comes to spirituality, they seek little, if any, protection from sin!
 - 2. Examples:
 - a. Insurance to protect your house, your car, your health.
 - b. Insurance to protect your assets -- disability insurance, life insurance, cancer insurance, umbrella policies that protect your assets from lawsuits, et. al.
 - c. Protecting family against predators -- don't want children going to public bathrooms by themselves.
 - d. Protecting yourself from diseases, viruses, MRSA, or Ebola.
 - e. Protecting yourself from fraud or libel.
 - f. Protecting your computer from hackers or malware.
 - g. Protecting yourself from identity theft, from criminals, or from terrorists.
- C. **(►)** The Big Concern That Should Be On The Heart Of Every Christian Is The Discussion Of This Lesson Today: "How Can I Protect Myself Against Sin?"
- D. I Should Have Added One Point Before "Be Careful!" "BEWARE!" "BE ALERT!" Why? Because Of The Reality Of Temptation And Sin!

I. **(Slide #4)** BE CAREFUL!

- A. Children's Song: "O Be Careful Little!"

(Slide #5) “O be careful LITTLE EYES what you see
O be careful little eyes what you see
There’s a Father up above
And He’s looking down in love
So, be careful little eyes what you see.

(Slide #6) O be careful LITTLE EARS what you hear
O be careful little ears what you hear
There’s a Father up above
And He’s looking down in love
So, be careful little ears what you hear.

(Slide #7) O be careful LITTLE HANDS what you do
O be careful little hands what you do
There’s a Father up above
And He’s looking down in love
So, be careful little hands what you do.

(Slide #8) O be careful LITTLE FEET where you go
O be careful little feet where you go
There’s a Father up above
And He’s looking down in love
So, be careful little feet where you go.

(Slide #9) O be careful LITTLE MOUTH what you say
O be careful little mouth what you say
There’s a Father up above
And He’s looking down in love
So, be careful little mouth what you say.”

B. (Slide #10) Guard Your Eyes!

1. Protect your heart but disciplining your eyes!
2. Ps. 101:3 “I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.”
3. Job 31:1 “I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?”

C. Guard Your Ears!

1. Mk. 4:24 “Take heed what you hear.”
2. Lk. 8:18 “Therefore take heed how you hear.”
3. Mk. 9:7 “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”

D. Guard Your Hands!

1. Things that God HATES, that are AN ABOMINATION to Him -- “hands that shed innocent blood.” Pr. 6:17
2. I Cor. 4:12 “And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;”
3. Eph. 4:28 “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”
4. I Tim. 5:22 “Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.”

E. Guard Your Feet!

1. Things that God HATES, that are AN ABOMINATION to Him -- “feet that are swift in running to evil.” Pr. 6:17
2. Pr. 1:15,16 “My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; ¹⁶For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood.”
3. Is. 59:7 “Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood;”
4. Ps. 1:1 “Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;”
5. Christians “should walk in newness of life.” Rom. 6:4
6. Eph. 5:8 “For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

F. Guard Your Mouth!

1. Ps. 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”
2. Col. 4:6 “*Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”
3. This is NOT JUST a trait of mature men; it is a trait for young men too! Tit. 2:8 “sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”

G. Guard Your Mind:

1. Phil. 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.”
2. II Cor. 10:4,5 “For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”

H. DO NOT Give In To The Lust Of The Flesh!

1. Rom. 13:13,14 “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.”
2. Do not let earthly or fleshly desires roost in your heart or become your desire; PUT ON CHRIST!

II. (Slide #11) BE A SOLDIER! (Song: “Soldiers Of Christ Arise!!!)

- A. (Slide #12) Eph. 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--”

B. (Slide #13) Lessons From The Text:

1. The weapons are available -- YOU MUST PICK THEM UP AND USE THEM!
2. Use ALL of them! “Panoply” -- “whole armor!”
3. When you use these spiritual weapons, you protect yourself and you can overcome!

4. Pray fervently as you use these weapons!
- C. I Tim. 6:12 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

III. (Slide #14) BE A JUDGE!

- A. I Jn. 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
- B. I Thess. 5:20,21 “Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.”
- C. Test Questions:
 1. Would God be pleased with this action?
 2. Will it cause people to honor God or think that I am dishonoring Him?
 3. Will this action bring me closer to God or push me further away from Him?

IV. (Slide #15) BE A RESISTER! (Song: “Yield Not To Temptation!”)

- A. Js. 4:7 “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
- B. Rom. 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
- C. (Slide #16) II Tim. 2:22,23 “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. ²³But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.”
- D. I Tim. 6:9-11 “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”

- E. I Cor. 6:18 “Flee sexual immorality.”
- F. Each victory will help you some other battle to win!!!

V. (Slide #17) BE DETERMINED!

- A. Heb. 12:1,2 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
- B. Dan. 1:8 “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”

VI. (Slide #18) BE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD AND TO YOUR BRETHREN!

- A. Heb. 10:24,25 “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
- B. Js. 5:16 “Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

Conclusion:

- A. Sin -- A Constant Threat!
- B. **(Slide #19)** Constantly Be On Guard; Protect Yourself!
- C. You Can Have “Victory In Jesus!”
- D. When You Doggedly Protect Yourself, Here Is The Result: Phil. 4:7 “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”