

The War Against the Soul (Part 3)

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Scriptures:

- 1 Peter 2:11, *NLT*
- 1 Peter 2:11, *MSG*
- 1 Kings 11:1-3, *NLT*
- Matthew 23:25, *NLT*
- Hebrews 10:1-39
- Hebrews 9:28, *NLT*

Summary:

Christians live in a culture diametrically opposed to the way God designed them. We're spirit beings living in a carnal external environment filled with ungodly influences constantly pulling at us. These influences suggest that giving in to cravings and addictions—not the presence of God—will make us happy. The devil, who is behind those influences, attacks our thinking and tries his best to make us sin-conscious. However, being born again makes us innocent and righteous in God's sight, which is something the devil does not want us to believe. This world isn't our final destination; we're therefore warned against the spiritual dangers of indulging ourselves in any pleasure that's harmful to our souls. We maintain our peace and joy when we're aware of our identity in Christ and refuse to let go of it.

Notes:

1. By using worldly influences, the enemy orchestrates ongoing attacks on the way we think.
2. We're warned against self-indulgence; biblical self-indulgence is defined as feeding the sinful passions of the flesh and living life apart from God.
3. There are all kinds of indulgences that pose a spiritual threat to us; some are obvious, while others are less noticeable but just as damaging.
4. Trusting in Christ, not in ourselves, allows Him to change our bad behavior. He has delivered us.
5. Grace—not willpower or self-effort—is necessary to get free from destructive behaviors. We allow grace to work in our lives by embracing our identity in Christ, trusting in God's unconditional love, and leaning on and rest in the truth that God's grace is already at work.
6. The fear of death stems from doubt that we've really been delivered from sin. Trusting that Jesus completely took care of it on the cross removes that fear.

Category: spiritual growth

Keywords: war, soul, carnal, ungodly, attacks, thinking, innocent, righteous