

“... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”
2 Timothy 2:22

January 31, 2021 - The Unbelief Beneath our Behavior

Why did Eve eat the forbidden fruit? Two reasons. First, Genesis 3:6 says, “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate...”. Put simply, the tree appealed to her flesh! She was hungry and it looked good! James says “each one is tempted when he is carried away by his own lust.” (James 1:14). But there’s another piece of the puzzle: her belief.

It fascinates me that Jesus’ message to the world wasn’t just to “stop sinning.” He did say “Repent!” so that was part of it. But His main encouragement to people was to *believe*. In the gospels, Jesus used the word “repent” 9 times. In contrast, the word “believe” is found 83 times! Why? Because our behavior is driven by our beliefs. There’s no way to fully repent without changing the beliefs beneath the behavior. The tree looked good to Eve, no doubt. But notice where Satan started with her: “The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’” (Genesis 3:4-5) He convinced her not to believe God, and the sin naturally followed!



In our fight against sin, we must be honest about the unbeliefs about God beneath our behavior. Why would a man cheat on his wife with another woman? Is it just because she’s attractive? That’s part of it, but there’s a deeper belief beneath the behavior. Like, “I’m unfulfilled because I’m tied down to one woman.” He doesn’t believe God’s plan for marriage and doesn’t believe his true fulfillment comes from God, not women.

If I’m tempted to lie, what’s the belief there? Maybe it’s, “I have to get into this college or I’ll never succeed in life.” If so, it’s unbelief that God will take care of me (Matt. 6:25-34). If I’m tempted to watch pornography, maybe the belief is that sexual pleasure is the key to true joy. If so, it’s unbelief that peace with God brings true joy (Philippians 4:4-7). If I’m tempted to steal, maybe the belief is that I deserve it because I caught a bad break in life. If so, it’s unbelief that what I deserve is death for my sin (Rom. 6:23). If I’m tempted to watch garbage on TV, maybe the belief is that it doesn’t affect me, I’m different. If I’m tempted to gossip, maybe the belief is that I need to put others down so I can feel good about myself. If I’m tempted to berate someone in anger, maybe the belief is I have to punish them because if I don’t then I’m just letting them get away with it. If I don’t pray much, maybe my belief is that I can handle life pretty well on my own. If I’m tempted to stay home and sleep instead of going to worship, maybe my belief is that worship isn’t necessary because I have a personal relationship with Jesus. If I’m tempted to hide in shame after I sin instead of coming to God with it, maybe my belief is He’ll never forgive me for this one. Beneath it all is unbelief.

Next time we’re tempted to sin, let’s go deep and ask ourselves, “What’s the *unbelief in God* beneath the behavior I’m considering?” In light of that question, perhaps one of the best prayers we can pray when tempted is “*I believe! Help my unbelief!*” (Mark 9:24)

Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord’s Supper Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Class
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.

Elders

Herb Hinely 407-339-4805
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

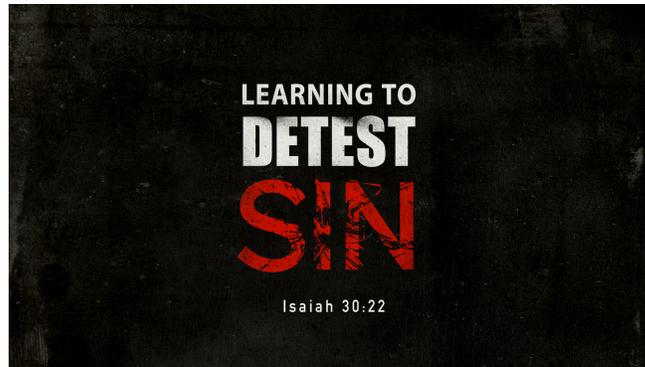
Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene
Jack Thomas, Terry Tokash
Emory VanCleave

Evangelist

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517

620 Palm Springs Drive
Altamonte Springs
407-831-3230



Adam Willingham | Sunday, January 31st, 2021

Move from don't ___ to don't _____ to _____.

The Desire for Sin

- Sin starts with desire (Jas. 1:14-15).
- To _____ sin, we must eliminate the desire for sin and even learn to detest it.

“Get Thee Hence”

- Jesus told _____, “Get thee hence” (Matt. 4:10).
- Isaiah prophesied that the Israelites would say to their idols, “Get thee hence” (Isa. 30:22).
- We should repudiate the practice of sin and be _____ by it.

The Command to Detest Sin

- Israel was to utterly detest and _____ idols (Deut. 7:25-26).
- We must _____ what is evil (Rom. 12:9).

How Do We Learn to do This?

1. _____ cultivating the desire for sin.
2. Crave _____ _____.
3. Take the _____ of sin seriously—both the temporal and eternal consequences.

Discussion Questions

(Group leaders, please read Isa. 30:22 & Deut. 7:25-26 at the start of the session.)

1. What additional steps can we take (besides the 3 steps listed in the final section) to lessen our desire for sin?
2. Why do we sometimes fail to take the consequences of sin as seriously as we should?
3. What are some positive examples of Christians you know who have demonstrated a hatred for sin?

Announcements

Sunday, January 31st, 2021

Please email all new announcements to announcements@psd.church.

SICK/HEALTH ISSUES:

- **Marilyn Petty** will be having back surgery tomorrow at AdventHealth Altamonte Springs. You may sign up to help out with a meal at TakeThemAMeal.com. Look up Petty (Marilyn) and use the password "psd."
- **Geny Harrison** is home from the hospital after having recent hip replacement surgery and is doing well.
- **Karisma Quist** has Gastritis. There was a concern she might have COVID-19, but fortunately she does not.
- **Rodney Rubright** is much better after his battle with MRSA. The antibiotics are working.
- **Jared Morton** has been improving from COVID-19, but he found out Wednesday that he also has pneumonia. The antibiotics are working on the pneumonia, making it much more bearable.
- **Dwayne and Shelley Gandy's oldest daughter, Lauren**, had surgery last week and is recovering well.
- **Anna Marcotte** pulled her gluteus muscle and is back to the walker, bedrest some, Heat & Ice therapy.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PSD:

- **Pat Steele's son, Bruce**, is very sick and cannot keep food down. The doctors are not certain what the problem is. They are hoping it is not throat cancer. Please pray a diagnosis will be determined soon.
- **Melody Welsh's parents-in-law** have COVID-19, along with 20 other members of the church in Sinton, TX.
- **Pam Blow, a member of the South Bumby church**, was diagnosed last Fall with Stage 4 Esophageal Cancer. Recently they found cancer in her bones.
- **Carmen Gonzalez's husband, Luis**, is doing well in his recovery from COVID-19.
- **Cindy Vanlandingham's aunt, Kathryn White**, passed away this week (on the 24th).
- **Cindy Vanlandingham's friend Angie's brother, John**, is improving from COVID-19.

TRAVELING:

- **The Willingham family** leaves today for a week-long vacation in Montana.
- **Herb and Tricia Hinely** are out of town for 3 weeks.

SHUT-IN:

- **Anne Dickson**
- **Geny Harrison**
- **Peggy Hunt**
- **Bea Deboe**
- **Thurman and Lynna Davis**
- **Patsy Holt**
- **Pat Steele**

SPECIAL CONCERNS ABOUT GETTING COVID-19:

- **Carol Van Cleef**
- **Diane Thyben**
- **Mary Ann Rubright**
- **Anna Marcotte**



Sodom and Gomorrah Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. What Lot baked for his guests to eat
4. Who were Lot's visitors?
6. Lot met his visitors here.
- 8 The city where Lot lived

DOWN

1. The Lord was going to _____ the cities.
3. Opposite of sons
5. Opposite of good
7. Lot went here instead of the mountains.

