

How to Lose Your Mind

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Introduction: How does Satan work to destroy us?

A. As a young Christian I did not understand the dangers in the works of the flesh.

(Gal 5:19-21)

1. It was hard for me to understand how men would be overcome by these things.
2. I also thought that Christians would see their sin and repent and then move on!
3. As years have gone by experience has taught me that the Lord's warnings were precisely where Satan could potentially defeat them.

B. One of the most surprising truths I have observed is how these sins can take away the ability of a man to reason!

1. Again as a young man all I thought I needed to do was find the proper reasoning and convince a person it was right and then they would obey!
2. The Lord indeed wants us to help others to reason right.
3. Jesus as the master teacher that knew men's hearts. He always saw the heart of the problem and sought to open the heart to expose it. **(Lk 2:34-35)**

I. The Danger of Sexual Sins (Gal 5:19)

A. When you chose to enter a world of lies you may never come out.

1. The only relationships that will last will have the love of God in it!

(1 Cor 13:4-7)

2. The dog-eat-dog relationships of the world cause you to live in a world of throw away people. Consider the fool Amnon. **(2 Sam 13:12-15)**
3. The very nature of immorality involves hiding and deceit. **(Prov 7:9-14)**

B. Who do you want to spend the rest of your life with?

1. The sexual bond carries very strong emotional forces with it. God has designed it that way for marriage!
2. Should you let "love" and passion determine a companion?
3. The one who ignores God's way before marriage will likely do so after marriage in many ways. Proud people will never admit wrong! **(Prov 30:20)**

C. Married couples need to always be on guard!

1. One young woman I baptized years ago found an old boyfriend on the internet.
2. An elder and I met with her several times and she admitted in tears that she was wrong and knew what God wanted. She would not do right!
3. I will never forget the power of sin that had captured this young lady.
4. It was in this same spirit that the idolaters sacrificed their children to Molech.
5. One can lose control of their heart to the powerful thoughts of lust and infatuation. It is as powerful as drugs.

II. The Danger of False Religion (Gal 5:20)

A. Whenever you enter any realm that runs from reason, you will be affected!

1. The essence of idolatry is running from God and the pursuit of worldly pleasures. **(Rom 1:21-23)**

2. Our God gave us minds that with honest inquiry can find Him and His way!
(**Heb 11:6; Jn 7:17**)
- B. The religions of the world operate “behind closed doors” and despise open debate and investigation. (**Ezek 8:12**)
 1. The world will try to close minds by dishonest whispering. (**Acts 14:1-2**)
 2. There are real dangers in the church where pride and bitterness are spread in secret and minds are shut down.

III. The Danger of Anger and Bitterness (Gal 5:20)

- A. Have you ever tried to reason with a “crazy man?”
 1. When one is filled with uncontrolled anger, Satan has control! (**Eph 4:26-27**)
 2. Bitterness will turn against any friend, break any commandment and even fight God without a blink of the eye.
- B. Most church splits have this spirit at the heart of the cause.
 1. You can be hurt by another and then act just like they do because of anger!
 2. Who do we want in control of our lives? (**Rom 12:17-21**)
 3. I want to warn our young about “anti-church” movements. Are you hearing about bad attitudes of others to stir you up to bitterness? You need to discern the difference between reason and shared anger. (**Heb 12:14-15**)
 4. There are many scoffers that post poison on the internet to appeal to pride and bitterness. Please do not join the scoffers. (**Psa 1:1**)

IV. The Danger of Addictions (Gal 5:21)

- A. Many have fallen to alcohol and drugs. (**Prov 23:32-35**)
 1. It is not uncommon in addictions to see buried anger and depression.
 2. This obsession like the others listed will pay any price for a temporary high.
- B. Dishonesty is a way of life for the addict.
 1. They deny its danger.
 2. They then deny the seriousness of their own situation. (Example: In Lincoln, “I do not have a problem!”)
 3. Lying becomes a way of life. The biggest lie they tell to themselves!
 4. In short they trust no one who will tell them the truth and help.
- C. “Friends” and Associates go with drugs.
 1. One of the reason people start is to be with the “in” crowd.
 2. Sadly, this becomes a major hurdle to quitting.
 3. Many are blind to the “dog-eat-dog” nature of these people.
(**John 15:18-19; 1 John 3:13**)
 4. If you really cared for a friend in this kind of group, what would you do?

V. How to come to your senses (Gal 5:22-26)

- A. In future studies we will look at the fruit of the spirit.
- B. This kind of thinking allows us to see the cross of Christ and God’s grace to us.

Conclusion: What kind of mind do you want? (**2 Tim 1:7, 13**)