

# The Pleasures of Sin

“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.”  
Hebrews 11:25

## I. Sin is a Choice

- A. Moses refused Pharaoh’s court and treasures to seek God and His reward by faith (Heb 11:24-26).
  - 1. He made his choice when he was 40 years old and eminently successful (Acts 7:20-23).
  - 2. He valued suffering affliction with God’s people greater than the temporary pleasures of sin.
  - 3. He valued the reproach of Christ greater riches and opportunity than the treasures of Egypt.
  - 4. He respected the promises and rewards of God, which he believed with simple faith (11:6).
- B. Adam and Eve made a choice (Gen 3:1-6 cp I Tim 2:14) – a terrible choice. Adam was not deceived.
- C. Lot chose the lush and prosperous plains of Jordan, which included Sodom (Genesis 13:10-13).
- D. Joseph made choice to honor God over temporary pleasures on a distant business trip (Gen 39:7-10).
- E. Achan made a choice to look, to consider, to lust, and to take (Joshua 7:20-21). What a high price!
- F. Ruth chose to leave country, language, relatives, religion, and security for Naomi (Ruth 1:6-18).
- G. David made choice to stay at home, take a walk, look, consider, inquire, and take (II Samuel 11:2-5).
- H. Daniel made choice not to defile himself with the king’s portion (Daniel 1:8-21). Does God reward?
- I. Ananias and Sapphira chose to misrepresent their giving to Peter and the church (Acts 5:1-11).
- J. We make many choices each day what we will or will not do, what we will or will not say, or think.

## II. Sin has Pleasure

- A. There was sinful pleasure in abundance for Moses, if he chose Pharaoh’s court and treasures.
- B. I should not be an honest preacher of the word, if I foolishly denied that sin has its pleasures.
- C. Men (and women) do not aggressively pursue sin for its pain, punishment, and consequences.
- D. The old man can only see and promote the pleasure; the new man sees only the pain and judgment.
- E. Eve surely enjoyed many pleasing thoughts from the three types of sin taking the fruit (Gen 3:6).
- F. Delilah gave pleasure no doubt to Samson, else why was he so taken by her (Judges 16:4).
- G. Fornication surely has its forbidden pleasure with horrible results to follow (Proverbs 9:13-17).
- H. When you are in great need or trouble, it is sweet to deceive others to obtain your choice (Pro 20:17).
- I. The Prodigal had a great time in a far country wasting his estate with riotous living (Luke 15:13).
- J. Herod made a choice out of political expediency to kill James and to take Peter (Acts 12:1-4).

## III. Sin’s Pleasure is Limited

- A. It is only for a season (Heb 11:25). If you sinned your whole life with pleasure, hell is much longer.
- B. Jesus would ask, If you gained the whole world but lost your own soul, is it worth it (Mark 8:36)?
- C. How shall we compare the lives and pleasures of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-28)?
- D. What shall we think of the rich fool (Luke 12:16-21)? Are there any like him today? Present?
- E. You cannot even boast of tomorrow, for you know not what a day shall bring forth (James 4:14).
- F. The triumph of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment (Job 20:4-7).
- G. It only pleases the flesh for a very short time; it leaves the spirit empty, guilty, vexed, and confused.
- H. Did Adam and Eve even get a second bite? Or were they instantly disappointed, shocked, and naked?
- I. How long did Judas enjoy his silver? Not long. His death was not pretty (Matt 27:3-10; Acts 1:18).
- J. How long is ungodly and wicked sex pleasant? Drinking? Partying? Lying? Covetous ambition? Anger? Envy? Child training? Stealing? Hatred?
- K. It does not satisfy. It teases and deceives with shallow pleasure. And then you wonder why so empty.

## IV. Sin has Natural Consequences

- A. The wicked flatters himself in his sinful deceit until he finds his choice to be hateful (Psalm 36:1-2).
- L. Consider the suicides, divorces, drugs, and therapies among the successful and popular of our nation.
- B. Consider examples of foolish animals led to the slaughter or caught in traps (Pro 7:22-23; Eccl 9:12).
- C. Drunkenness?! The drunkard gets sick, shames himself, kills a child with a car, wastes his money, wastes his time, loses his memory, loses his job, has a hangover, and builds a horrible addiction.

- D. An affair?! The adulterer destroys four souls, two marriages, and two families forever. Believe it.
- E. It destroys boldness and leaves the wicked fleeing from nothing but his own guilt and fear (Pr 28:1).
- F. The flattery of a strange woman is wonderful, but her end is bitter and painful (Pro 5:3-13; 9:13-18).
- G. Consider David's warning to Solomon about the attraction and destruction of adultery (Pr 7:20-35).
- H. It flatters the deceitful heart to fantasize against reality thus creating great discontentment.
- I. Consider Romans 6:21 and Paul's rhetorical and ridiculing question about sin and its fruit.
- J. Consider Amnon. A great lesson is here. How long the pleasure? What happened (II Sam 13:1-39)?
- K. If you neglect your spiritual life, you will suffer for it. You will have a lean soul that is pain itself.
- L. If you neglect your children, you will suffer for it (Proverbs 29:15; 17:25; I Kings 1:6).
- M. If you neglect your marriage, you will suffer for it. Some hate themselves (Eph 5:28-29; Ec 4:9-12).

#### V. Sin has Spiritual Consequences

- A. It gives place to the Devil, who then gains an opening in your life for destruction (Eph 4:27).
  - 1. The Devil's only purpose in your life is to destroy your soul (I Peter 5:8; II Timothy 2:26).
  - 2. When you are a raving lunatic among the tombs, then he will finally leave you (Mk 5:1-13).
- B. It grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit of the Living God (Eph 4:30; I Thess 5:19).
  - 1. You lose power and might to choose righteousness (I Tim 4:2; II Tim 2:17; Eph 3:14-19).
  - 2. You lose all desire for confession and repentance (Heb 3:12-13 cp II Tim 2:25-26).
  - 3. Your soul is left empty, dry, lean, and painful (Psalm 51:8; 106:15).
  - 4. You lose your hope and confidence of eternal life (Ps 51:12; I John 3:24; II Pet 1:8-11).
  - 5. You lose your joy of the Lord and His salvation (Ps 51:12).
  - 6. Your prayers will be hindered by neglecting your spouse (I Pet 3:7; Mal 2:11-16; Rom 8:26).
  - 7. It vexes your new man, who is deeply offended by the hypocrisy and sin (II Peter 2:7-8).
- C. It brings the supernatural judgment of God into your life.
  - 1. He is a Rewarder in a good way (Heb 11:6), and He is a Rewarder in a bad way (Ps 18:26).
  - 2. The way of transgressors is hard (Prov 13:15). God's chastening is not something to ignore.
    - a. Consider the judgments on David, a man after God's own heart (II Sam 12:10-14).
    - b. Moses begged repeatedly for mercy to see Canaan, but his one offence was enough.
    - c. Eli did not restrain his sons, so God took away his family in most painful process.
    - d. If you can sin and not be chastened, then you are a reprobate (Hebrews 12:5-11).
  - 3. He blows on your other efforts (Hag 1:5-6). Sin in one area defiles all areas (Hag 2:10-14).
- D. It takes away the Presence and Fellowship of God.
  - 1. Instead of peace and fellowship, you have guilt and desertion (Psalm 51:14; I John 1:4-9).
  - 2. You separate His ear from your prayers and His arm from your deliverance (Isaiah 59:1-2).
- E. It is the way to hell.
  - 1. For the Lord will send His waves, billows, and terrors to buffet your soul (Ps 88:4-9,14-18).
  - 2. He can leave you with the demons of hell to torment your soul and afflict you (I Cor 5:5).

#### VI. Choose Jesus Christ and righteous regardless of the cost and zealously reject the pleasures of sin.

- A. He offers an abundant life with joy and peace; only rebellion hinders you (John 10:10; 14:27; 15:11).
- B. Jesus Christ chose you in love for an eternal inheritance. How shall we choose sin (II Cor 5:14-15)?
- C. There is also an eternal reward that far outweighs any sacrifice or affliction here (II Cor 4:17-18).
- D. We walk by faith, not by sight (II Cor 5:7). This is how the elders obtained a good report (Heb 11:2).
- E. One view of His glory and holiness turns every sinful choice into miserable guilt (Is 6:1-8; Lu 5:8).
- F. It is possible to meet the Lord Jesus Christ with joy and confidence rather than shame (I John 2:28).
- G. Remember the flood. Everything you desire will be melted with fervent heart (II Pet 3:5-6,11,14,17).
- H. This is how the Lord and we measure love. What will you give in exchange for Him (Luke 14:26)?
- I. Try to keep your life by choosing sin, you lose it; lose it for Him, and you will find it (Matt 10:39).
- J. If you are not born again by the Spirit of God, then no man has any hope for you but sin's pleasures.
- K. If you are born again by the Spirit of God, you can only be happy by choosing Jesus Christ over sin.