

**Wretched Worldview**

**Sanctification:  
Battling Subtle Sins**

**Study Guide Answer Key**

### Study Guide Answer Key

*This Answer Key is not meant to be comprehensive, but to serve as a general guideline. We encourage the student to give more detailed responses. Answers for each chapter can be found in the Sanctification: Battling Subtle Sins DVD. Some of the Going Deeper questions may require the use of additional resources.*

## CHAPTER ONE: Pride & Humility

1. The amount of pride we have typically indicates what?  
**How much we love ourselves.**
2. According to Todd, why is pride the one sin that keeps an individual from salvation?  
**Because God resists the proud.**
3. Why is pride such a struggle for human beings?  
**Because we love ourselves!**
4. Why should we love others more than ourselves?  
**Because that is the character and nature of God, and we are called to be like Christ.**
5. How can we start practicing humility in our relationships with other people?  
**By asking them questions about themselves instead of talking so much about ourselves. Talking about ourselves all the time is not loving and it is not humility. Philippians 2:3 states that we should “regard one another as more important than yourselves.”**

### GOING DEEPER:

1. Do you agree that Facebook and Twitter contribute to our problem with pride? If so, explain how.
2. Can social media (like Facebook and Twitter) be used for God's glory and if so, how?
3. Evaluate how well you love others by comparing yourself against the definition of love found in I Corinthians 13. Be as honest as you can in assessing your thoughts and actions. Think about the people or situations that you most struggle with in showing this kind of love, and then write out some ways you can be more loving in each area. Be as specific as you possibly can. Afterward, spend some time praying about how you can better demonstrate this kind of love in your relationship with others.

**Love is patient and kind.**

Ways I struggle in this area:

How I can be more loving in this area:

**Love does not envy or boast.**

Ways I struggle in this area:

How I can be more loving in this area:

**Love is not arrogant or rude.**

Ways I struggle in this area:

How I can be more loving in this area:

**Love does not insist on its own way.**

Ways I struggle in this area:

How I can be more loving in this area:

**Love is not irritable or resentful.**

Ways I struggle in this area:

How I can be more loving in this area:

**Love doesn't rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.**

Ways I struggle in this area:

How I can be more loving in this area:

## CHAPTER TWO: Self-Esteem...or Idolatry?

1. According to author David M. Tyler, does the Bible support the idea of people having a lack of self-esteem? Write out the Bible verse that was used to support this view.  
**Tyler stated that the Bible does not support the idea of lack of self-esteem. It teaches us that we actually love ourselves. Sometimes, too much! Ephesians 5:29 was used for support: "No one has ever hated his own body, but nourishes it and cherishes it..."**
2. According to Tyler, how does the Bible describe what we refer to as lack of self-esteem? What Bible verse was used to support this view?  
**He says it's actually guilt for sin in our lives. According to Ezekiel 20:43, "...you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all the things you have done." Ultimately, the sad feelings we have about ourselves are the result of too much sin and the feelings that come from too much sin.**
3. What were the three problems discussed in this segment? Explain each one to the best of your ability.
  1. **The Presentation Problem: This is not the cause of the problem but the effect of it. Our bad feelings are not the problem but are alerting us to the real problem that is causing our bad feelings.**
  2. **The Performance Problem: Sin. According to Psalm 38:3-5, "There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin." Sin causes us to feel badly.**
  3. **The Pre-Conditioning Problem: This is the underlying cause of the problem. This is an idol because we're loving something (usually ourselves) more than God.**
4. List the five x-ray questions that can help us discover the idols in our lives.
  1. **What do you love or hate?**
  2. **What do you desire, crave, lust for, or wish for?**
  3. **What are your goals?**
  4. **Where do you bank your hopes?**
  5. **What do you fear?**
5. Why are these types of "x-ray" questions so important for our sanctification process?  
**It helps us get to the root of what is causing our sin, which in turn causes our bad feelings. An idol is something we worship, love, and desire. And it is replacing our worship, love, and desire for God.**
6. List the seven things we should do after identifying an idol, and explain each one in your own words.
  1. **Remember the gospel!**  
*This is crucial in order to keep our obedience grounded in gratitude for what Jesus has done for us and not in merit, thinking we can earn something by being obedient. It all must begin with the motivation to please the one who died for you.*

2. Hate and kill any idol that is not Jesus.  
*Our idols cause us to worship them instead of our Savior, so they must go! These idols are competing for the throne of Jesus.*
  3. Learn theology.  
*It's imperative to know the truth in order to identify an idol.*
  4. Repent and keep repenting.  
*Sanctification is an on-going battle of removing idols in our hearts and keeping Jesus as our first love. Therefore, we must be continually repenting.*
  5. Make it right and forsake the idol.  
*In addition to repenting, apologize and make it right to others if your idol worship has hurt, wounded, or bruised them.*
  6. Train yourself in righteousness. Make changes in your life, on the surface and in the heart.  
*Retrain yourself from patterns of sin to patterns of righteousness.*
  7. Keep preaching the gospel to yourself.  
*Continually remembering who God is, who we are, and what God has done for us through His Son helps us to keep King Jesus on the throne of our hearts instead of our idols.*
7. One of the answers for the above question was "keep preaching the gospel to yourself." Why do we continually need to repeat this particular point?  
***When we understand who He is, who we are, and what He has done for us, then we will love and desire Him more than anything else. We will want Him seated on the throne of our hearts.***

## GOING DEEPER:

1. Do an inventory of your heart by answering the five x-ray questions to see if there are any idols sitting on its throne. Be honest with yourself. When you're done, spend some time praying about your answers and work your way through the seven things you do after discovering an idol.
  1. What I most love and hate:
  2. What I most desire, crave, lust for, and wish for:
  3. My goals:
  4. Where I bank my hopes (In other words, what I put my trust in):

5. What I most fear:
2. Read Colossians 3: 1-17, then answer the following questions:
  - a. What is the purpose of the word *therefore* in vs. 5?  
**It connects the imperative (command) to “put to death what is earthly in you” with the indicatives (statements of fact) in vs. 3 & 4, “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” In other words, our motivation to put sin to death is based upon the fact that, spiritually speaking, we have died and been raised with Christ and our life is now hidden with Him in God and will one day be revealed in glory.**
  - b. What does Paul list as idolatry and what is the result of such behavior?  
**Sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed. On account of these things the wrath of God is coming.**
  - c. List everything we are commanded to put away.  
**Anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, lying.**
  - d. List everything we are commanded to put on.  
**Compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience (bearing with and forgiving one another), and love.**
  - e. List all the imperatives (commands) you see in verses 15-17.
    1. **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.**
    2. **Be thankful.**
    3. **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you (by way of teaching and admonishing one another).**
    4. **Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**
3. Were any of the idols you discovered in Question 1 found in the list Paul describes as idolatry?
4. If you are saved, how does Paul describe you in vs. 12?  
**Chosen of God, holy and beloved.**
5. Write out some ways you can be more intentional about putting on the things mentioned in vs. 12. Then, take some time to pray about how your life can be a better reflection of who you already are in Christ.

## CHAPTER THREE: Is Technology an Idol?

1. What is the difference between mediated communication and immediate communication?  
What were the examples given for mediated communication?  
**Mediated communication is when you communicate with someone using a device or technology. Immediate communication is direct, face-to-face.**  
  
**Examples of mediated communication were texting, emailing, and Morse code.**
2. How did Tim Challies, in his book *The Next Story*, describe mediated communication?
  1. **It's easy and safe.**
  2. **It requires less focus and time.**
  3. **It gives us greater control.**
3. According to Tim Challies, why is immediate communication good for us?
  1. **It causes us to be honest.**
  2. **It forces us to be giving.**
  3. **It leads us to being more loving.**
4. What were the three questions Todd asked to determine if mediated communication is an idol in your life?
  1. **Do you like texting because it allows you to stay distant and in control?**
  2. **Do you prefer texting because it does not require time, energy, or love?**
  3. **Do you text because it allows you to maintain control?**
5. Why is it so important for the church in particular to practice immediate communication more than mediated communication?  
**We, as the church, need to be helping one another. When we engage in immediate communication, we can help, inspire, and encourage other Christians.**
6. How do you get over your idolatry of technology and self?  
**You look to the gospel!**

### GOING DEEPER:

1. Todd used the word *koinonia*. Look up the word in a dictionary and write its definition and language of origin.  
**Koinonia is a Greek word that means "fellowship, sharing in common, communion."**
2. The essence of koinonia can be found in the following verses. Look them up and record what you learn about Christian fellowship.  
Romans 12:10-13 - **We are to be devoted to one another in brotherly love; giving preference to one another in honor; serving the Lord; practicing hospitality.**



I Peter 4:8-10 -

**We are to keep fervent in our love for each other; to be hospitable to one another without complaint; use our spiritual gifts to serve one another.**

I Thessalonians 5:11, 14 -**We are commanded to encourage one another and build up one another.**

3. Compare what you learned from the verses above on Christian fellowship with how Tim Challies describes mediated communication from Question 2. Write down your observations.

***Student's answer should be well thought out and can include something like: Mr. Challies described mediated communication as easy and safe because it requires less focus and time, and gives us greater control than immediate communication. Yet, the verses on Christian fellowship seem to imply that true fellowship takes time, energy, and requires mostly face-to-face contact. It's about serving each other and putting others' needs ahead of our own. This is done best through immediate communication.***

4. Given what Scripture teaches about true fellowship, does mediated technology have any place in our relationships with other Believers? Or other people, in general?

***Student's answer should be well thought out and can include something like: For the most part, true Christian fellowship as described in Scripture is best done through immediate communication. However, this does not mean mediated communication is therefore bad. It has its place as long as we're not using it to avoid people or stressful situations. As strictly a communication tool, it can help in time management, efficiency, and productivity.***

5. Is technology an idol in your life? Honestly answer the "Idol-busting" questions that Todd asked in this segment (question 4), then spend some time in prayer, confessing and asking the Lord to help you keep technology in its proper place in your life.

## CHAPTER FOUR: Criticism or Encouragement?

1. According to Todd, how does the spiritual gift of encouragement (Romans 14, Ephesians 4) capture the concept of criticism?  
**The purpose of criticism (delivered biblically!) is to help others in their relationship with the Lord. We should desire that our friends and family know God and understand His salvation. In other words, our goal is not only for them to behave rightly, but to believe rightly, to know God rightly, and to receive His forgiveness rightly. We should desire they understand the gospel rightly. This will mean, at times, confronting them about their sin.**
2. What is the difference between a preference and a sin? What example did Todd give? Can you think of another example?  
**A sin is something clearly spelled out in the Bible as wrong. A preference is a personal opinion about a certain behavior that is neither right nor wrong in and of itself. Todd gave the example of someone taking the Lord's name in vain. That's clearly the sin of blasphemy. However, someone chewing ice is not a sin in and of itself - although it can drive others crazy!**
3. What is (or should be) the point of confronting another person about their sin?  
**The primary point should not be about correcting the person's behavior. It should be about helping him or her to rightly understand the gospel and its implication upon their lives and their sinful behavior.**
4. What is the difference between criticism and encouragement?  
**Criticism often is meant to tear down or belittle the other person and often has to do with a preference issue more than an actual sin. Encouragement is about lifting up the other person for the purpose of leading them to the cross so that they begin to look more like Jesus. We must be gospel-centered in our approach.**
5. List the ten important steps to take before confronting someone on their sin.
  1. Prepare your heart and check your motives. (Make sure you aren't being overly sensitive or venting your anger.)
  2. Pray for wisdom.
  3. Remember the sewer God pulled you out of.
  4. Come as a fellow sinner.
  5. Start with a compliment.
  6. Remind the person of your love. (If you can't do that, you probably shouldn't be meeting with them.)
  7. If this is a conflict, confess your sins if necessary.
  8. Be patient. (Remember how patient God is with you.)
  9. Remember your goal: not victory, but building up.
  10. Be gentle and provide a way for easy confession.
6. Explain how gospel-centered confrontation is different than plain old confrontation.  
**Student's answer should include some of these aspects: First, the point of gospel-centered confrontation is the gospel itself. It's about encouraging the other person in their salvation; not primarily about correcting their behavior. Second, it forces the person who is confronting to recognize themselves as equally a sinner as the person**

*they are confronting. In that respect, it “levels the playing field”; no one is better or superior to anyone else. Third, it requires the person confronting to treat the other person with the same love, grace and patience with which God treats him in his own sin.*

## GOING DEEPER:

1. Read the following Scripture passages to learn important principles for gospel-centered confrontation. Record your observations.

<b>Proverbs 15:1 -</b>	<b>Harsh words stir up anger. When confronting someone, especially doing so with a gospel-centered mindset, it's best to use gentle words with a gentle approach.</b>
<b>Matthew 18:15-17 -</b>	<b>There is a proper order in confronting someone about their sin. If the person has sinned against you, you are to first go to them in private. If he refuses to listen, then take two or three witnesses, then go to the church.</b>
<b>Galatians 6:1-2 -</b>	<b>Gospel-centered confrontation is about restoring the person caught in sin. Therefore, it is to be done with a spirit of gentleness, recognizing our own susceptibility to sin.</b>
<b>Ephesians 4:25 -</b>	<b>We are to speak truth to each other because we are members of one another.</b>
<b>Philippians 2:3-4 -</b>	<b>Our attitude in confrontation should not be selfish or conceited; rather, we should be humble, regarding the other person as more important than ourselves.</b>
<b>I Thessalonians 5:14-15 -</b>	<b>We are called to admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with everyone, not repaying evil for evil, but seeking after that which is good for one another.</b>
<b>Hebrews 3:13 -</b>	<b>We are to encourage one another regularly so that we will not become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.</b>
<b>James 5:19-20 -</b>	<b>As Believers, we are to rescue the person who wanders from the truth of God's Word and who lives in opposition to what God's Word says. This would obviously involve confrontation for the purpose of restoring the person into right fellowship with the Lord.</b>

2. How well do you give and receive confrontation regarding sin? Does it help to view confrontation as an element of encouragement instead of criticism? Write your thoughts below and then spend some time praying about your attitude in this important area of sanctification.

## CHAPTER FIVE: A Judgmental Heart

1. What is the underlying issue for those who struggle with a judgmental attitude?  
**Pride and self-love.**
2. List the ten questions from Trevin Wax that discern a judgmental heart.
  1. **Am I more likely to see the sin in others than my sin?**
  2. **When I pray, am I more likely to pray for God's judgment on others rather than marvel at God's amazing grace toward me?**
  3. **Am I overtly critical toward others while I give myself a pass or an excuse to justify my own sin?**
  4. **Does my own sin ever lead me to deep remorse and repentance?**
  5. **Do I have people whom I allow to hold me accountable for my sin and unforgiving heart?**
  6. **Do I have a tendency to be unforgiving while expecting others to forgive me quickly?**
  7. **Do I find joy in exposing sin in others?**
  8. **When others see how I deal with people, will they think God is mighty to save or that God would never forgive them and there is no hope for forgiveness?**
  9. **Do I receive correction humbly?**
  10. **Before I correct others, do I spend time in God's Word and prayer asking the Holy Spirit to expose my sin so that I might repent?**
3. What is the solution for a judgmental attitude?  
**Remember the gospel!**
4. Explain the two things of which the gospel reminds us.
  1. **That we are wretched, depraved sinners.**
  2. **That while we were yet sinners and deserving of God's wrath, He instead showed love, grace, and mercy by sending His Son to die for our sins.**
5. How does remembering the gospel help cure a judgmental attitude or angry disposition?  
**No matter how much someone else offends us or sins against us, the gospel reminds us that we too are sinners and that our sin put Jesus on the cross. Remembering we are fellow sinners, no better than the person offending us, can help us to extend grace and forgiveness instead of a critical spirit or angry disposition. Simply stated, when someone sins against you – remember the cross...every single time.**

### GOING DEEPER:

1. As honestly as you can, answer the ten questions to discern if you have a judgmental heart. After you have answered the questions, take some time to pray about what you discovered regarding the condition of your heart in this area.
  1. Am I more likely to see the sin in others than my sin?

2. When I pray, am I more likely to pray for God's judgment on others rather than marvel at God's amazing grace toward me?
3. Am I overtly critical toward others while I give myself a pass or an excuse to justify my own sin?
4. Does my own sin ever lead me to deep remorse and repentance?
5. Do I have people whom I allow to hold me accountable for my sin and unforgiving heart?
6. Do I have a tendency to be unforgiving while expecting others to forgive me quickly?
7. Do I find joy in exposing sin in others?
8. When others see how I deal with people, will they think God is mighty to save or that God would never forgive them and there is no hope for forgiveness?
9. Do I receive correction humbly?
10. Before I correct others, do I spend time in God's Word and prayer asking the Holy Spirit to expose my sin so that I might repent?

2. There is a difference between being judgmental and rightly judging the behavior or teaching of other Believers. Read the following passages on judging and record your observations.

<b>Matthew 7:1-5 -</b>	<b>While this passage is often used in defense of not judging at all (based on verse 1), it's actually about inappropriate judging. The standard we use to judge others will be the standard used to judge us. Therefore, we must take care to judge without hypocrisy. We should first look at ourselves and confess any sin in our own lives before we judge and confront another Believer regarding their sin.</b>
<b>John 7:24 -</b>	<b>We are not to judge according to appearance, but with righteous judgment.</b>
<b>Romans 2:1-3 -</b>	<b>We are not to judge others hypocritically.</b>
<b>Romans 14:1-13 -</b>	<b>We are not to pass judgment on the opinions of others, particularly those who are weak in the faith. Those things that are considered preferences (what to eat, what holidays to observe, etc.) are not to be condemned.</b>
<b>I Corinthians 5:9-13 -</b>	<b>It is right to judge those within the church, who claim to be saved, if their behavior doesn't line up with that of a true Christian.</b>
<b>James 4:11-12 -</b>	<b>We are not to speak against a Brother or judge the person themselves. Only God is the judge of someone's soul.</b>
<b>Jude 3-4 -</b>	<b>We are to contend for the faith against false teachers. This requires judging/discerning the doctrine of teachers to determine if their teaching is according to God's Word.</b>

3. Based upon the verses above, summarize the difference between being judgmental and biblical judging.

***Student's answer can vary, but should be similar to: It is biblical to judge a Christian's behavior and teaching if it doesn't line up with the Word of God; however, we are not to judge the person themselves. We can only judge based upon what God's Word has clearly stated as right and wrong. We cannot judge based upon our preferences or opinions. We must not judge hypocritically, but look at ourselves first to make sure we're not in sin before we judge another person.***

## CHAPTER SIX: Receiving Criticism Well

1. Why do you think it's so hard for most people to receive criticism?  
***Answer should include something about pride!***
2. In what two ways can criticism be a mercy from God?
  1. **It can reveal an area in your life that needs fixing.**
  2. **It can also reveal to us that we need to work on our attitudes toward those who criticize us.**
3. What does it mean to receive criticism well? In other words, what does it look like in practice?  
***Answer should include something to the effect of: listening without getting defensive; not taking offense at the person criticizing us; being willing to admit valid criticism.***
4. According to this segment, how does a Christian grow in their ability to receive criticism well?  
**By staying in the gospel and growing in their understanding of it.**
5. How does the gospel help us receive criticism well?  
**The gospel reminds us that we're each the chief of sinners and our own sin put Christ on the cross. The more deeply we understand these truths, the easier it is to be confronted with our sin by others.**
6. Why should a Christian be grateful to receive criticism?  
**Because he should hate his sin; his sin was the very thing that killed Jesus.**
7. How should a Christian handle unfair criticism?  
**While he can defend himself in those areas he is being unfairly criticized for, he should also be willing to consider and deal with any part of the criticism that may be true. A sign of spiritual maturity is being more concerned about repenting of one's sin than defending one's reputation.**
8. If you really struggle with receiving criticism well, how do you mature in this area?  
**Remember the gospel every day! The more you remember that even though you're the chief of sinners, and that Jesus died for you anyway...the more your pride will decrease and your ability to handle criticism will increase.**

### GOING DEEPER:

1. The book of Proverbs is full of descriptions of those who receive criticism, discipline, reproof and wisdom well (often called *wise*) as opposed to those who don't (often called *fools*). Look up the following Proverbs and write down what you learn about a wise person as opposed to a fool. The first one is done for you.

	A Wise Person	A Foolish Person
Proverbs 1:7	Fears the Lord	Despises wisdom and instruction
9:8	Loves the one who reproves him	Hates the one who reproves him
12:1	Loves discipline, loves knowledge	Hates reproof, is stupid
13:1	Accepts his father's discipline	Does not listen to rebuke
13:18	Will be honored	Neglects discipline - Poverty and shame will come to him
14:16	Cautious, turns from evil	Arrogant and careless
15:5	Regards reproof – is sensible	Rejects his father's discipline
15:32	Listens to reproof - Acquires understanding	Neglects discipline – despises himself
18:2		Does not delight in understanding, just speaking his own mind

- Based upon the verses above, summarize the wise person and the foolish person in regard to receiving criticism, correction, or discipline.

**The wise person fears the Lord, loves knowledge and wisdom, is cautious and turns from evil. Therefore, he loves the one who gives him wisdom and understanding, who reproves him and disciplines him. In the end, he will be honored.**

**The foolish person despises wisdom and instruction. He is arrogant and careless. Mostly, he just likes speaking his own mind. He does not appreciate those who try to give him knowledge or wisdom; he rejects and neglects discipline. In reality, he despises himself and poverty and shame will come to him.**

- If you were to ask your parents, pastor and/or youth leader which person you most resemble (wise or foolish) what do you think they'd say? Write down your answer, and give the reasons you think they'd give you. If you feel comfortable, ask them what they think and give some serious thought to their response. After all, that's what a wise person would do!



## CHAPTER SEVEN: Respectable Sins

1. Give three reasons why making a game out of sin, such as the game described in this segment, is wrong. Use Scripture to support your answer.

***Answers could include that it makes a mockery of God, sin, the Bible, etc.; trivializes sin and how much God hates it; reduces sensitivity to one's own sin; demeans what the Bible teaches about sin; etc.***

***Possible Scripture verses would include Psalm 1:1-6; 14:1-4; Romans 6:15-16; 1 John 3:4***

2. List the seven modern day "sins" mentioned in this segment, those things which are deemed wrong by society's standards. Can you think of others?

1. Throw a plastic water bottle into a creek.
2. Tell someone they are wrong.
3. Try to stop someone from getting an abortion.
4. If you're a pastor, refuse to perform a same-sex marriage.
5. Spank your child.
6. Homeschool your child.
7. Tell a complete stranger that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

***Other possible "sins" could include saying it's wrong to have sex before marriage, proselytizing (trying to convert someone to Christianity), basing political opinions on what the Bible says, calling something (pretty much anything!) a sin, etc.***

3. Todd quoted Revelation 21:8. According to this verse, who will have a part in the lake of fire?

**The cowardly, the unbelieving and abominable, murderers, immoral persons, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars.**

4. What were the seven "respectable" sins mentioned in this segment?

1. Wrath (anger)
2. Greed
3. Sloth (laziness)
4. Pride
5. Lust
6. Envy
7. Gluttony (loving food more than Jesus)

5. Explain why these could be considered "respectable".

**They're so common that we often ignore, overlook, or justify them in our minds.**

### GOING DEEPER:

1. What exactly does the Bible say about these so-called respectable sins? Using a concordance, find at least three verses for each of the sins listed in Question 4. Write out each verse so you can clearly see what God thinks of each of these sins.

*Possible answers could include:*

1. **Wrath (anger):** Psalm 37:8; Proverbs 14:29, 22:24-25; Matthew 5:22; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; James 1:19-20
  2. **Greed:** Ecclesiastes 5:10; Mark 7:20-23; Luke 12:15; Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5-6; I Timothy 6:9-10; Hebrews 13:5
  3. **Sloth (laziness):** Genesis 2:15; Proverbs 10:4-5, 20:4; Ephesians 4:28; Colossians 3:23-24; I Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; Hebrews 6:10-12
  4. **Pride:** Proverbs 8:13; 16:5,18, 28:25; 29:23; Romans 12:3,16; Galatians 6:3; Philippians 2:3; James 4:6; I Peter 5:5; I John 2:16
  5. **Lust:** Psalm 119:37; Matthew 5:28; Mark 7:20-23; Romans 6:13, 13:14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:5; I Thessalonians 4:3-5; I Peter 2:11; I John 2:16
  6. **Envy:** Psalm 37:7; Proverbs 14:30; Mark 7:20-23; Romans 1:29-32, 13:13; I Corinthians 3:3, 13:4; Galatians 5:19-21; Titus 3:3
  7. **Gluttony:** Proverbs 23:20-21; Matthew 4:1-4, 6:25; Romans 12:1, 13:14; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 3:18-19; Titus 1:8, 2:11-12
2. What about you? How are you doing in your sanctification in regard to the seven “respectable” sins? Take some time to honestly evaluate yourself by writing down how you struggle in each area. Also include any progress you’ve seen as the Holy Spirit has been working in your life.  
(Of course, this only applies if you’re saved! If you’re not saved, please go to [www.wretchedradio.com](http://www.wretchedradio.com) where we can help you better understand what salvation is, and how you can be saved.)

WRATH (ANGER):

GREED:

SLOTH (LAZINESS):

PRIDE:

LUST:

ENVY:

GLUTTONY:

## CHAPTER EIGHT: How Sin Masquerades as Good

1. According to this segment, how does a Christian's sin affect God? Can you find biblical support for this?

**When a Christian sins, it grieves God. Biblical support can be found in Ephesians 4:30.**

2. According to Scripture, the devil is called the father of lies. Find the Bible verse that says this and record it below. Also, look at the context and record who is speaking and whom the speaker is addressing.

**In John 8, Jesus is speaking to the Jews, specifically the scribes and Pharisees, according to verse 3. In verse 44, Jesus says to them, "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."**

3. Record what else you learn about the devil from the verse above:  
**He is a murderer from the beginning; there is no truth in him; he lies because that is his nature.**

4. According to the article quoted in this segment, we are perpetually at a masquerade party where sin is masquerading itself as something good. Complete the sentences below by listing the 6 ways sin masquerades itself as good. The first one is done for you.

<b>An impatient moment of yelling</b>	<b><i>masquerades as</i></b>	<b>zeal for the truth.</b>
<b>Lust</b>	<b><i>masquerades as</i></b>	<b>a love for beauty.</b>
<b>Gossip</b>	<b><i>masquerades as</i></b>	<b>concern and prayer.</b>
<b>Craving for power and control</b>	<b><i>masquerades as</i></b>	<b>biblical leadership.</b>
<b>Fear of man</b>	<b><i>masquerades as</i></b>	<b>being a peacemaker or having a servant's heart.</b>
<b>Pride in always being right</b>	<b><i>masquerades as</i></b>	<b>a love for biblical wisdom.</b>

5. Can you think of other sins that can masquerade as something good?

### GOING DEEPER:

1. Let's look at how Satan deceives people. Read Genesis 3:1-6 and write down everything you observe about his tactics in deceiving Eve.

***Student's answer should be similar to:***

1. **Satan begins by getting Eve to doubt God's Word. Verse 1, "Did God actually say..."**

2. He then directly contradicts God's Word. Verse 4, "You shall surely not die."
  3. He makes God appear to be withholding something good from her. He also appeals to a desire to be like God, a desire which caused his own downfall. (See Isaiah 14.) Verse 5, "God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God knowing good and evil."
  4. He mixes his lie with a "bit" of truth. Verse 5, "...your eyes will be opened...knowing good and evil..."
2. As best you can, evaluate yourself to discern if you have any sin masquerading in your life as something good. Write down your insight.
3. What should you do when you recognize this kind of sin in your life? Include Scripture to support your answer.
- Student's answer and Scripture choices will vary, but must include confession.***
1. Confess your sin. *Possible verse includes:* I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  2. Remind yourself of the gospel and thank God for His salvation. *Possible verses include:* Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Also, I Peter 3:18, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God..." Thank you, Lord, for Your grace – Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."
  3. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you root out this type of sin in your life. *Possible verse includes:* I Peter 2:1-2, "Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation."
  4. Seek accountability from a trusted, mature Believer who can lovingly point out this sin when they see it in you, and pray for you. *Possible verse includes:* James 5:16, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."
  5. Keep *yourself* accountable by consistently staying in God's word and knowing His will (Ephesians 5:17).

## CHAPTER NINE: Envy

1. What sin is at the root of the sin of envy?  
**The sin of idolatry.**
2. List the three components to envy, according to Tim Challies.
  1. **The deep discontent that comes when you see that another person has what you want**
  2. **The desire to have it for yourself**
  3. **The desire for it to be taken from him**
3. According to Mr. Challies, people are not proud of being rich, or clever, or good looking. What *are* they proud of then?  
**Being richer, cleverer, and better looking than others.**
4. Mr. Challies states that there are only two possible outcomes when you compare yourself to another. What are they?
  1. **If you believe you come out on top (better than the other person), you feel proud.**
  2. **If you believe you come out on the bottom (less than the other person), you feel envy. Envy comes when pride is wounded.**
5. Why does Todd say that pride is the hinge on which salvation swings?  
**Because God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).**
6. What does envy expose about us?
  1. **Our deepest desires**
  2. **What we value most**
  3. **Where our heart loyalties really lie**
7. Why does envy expose our heart like no other sin, according to Mr. Challies?  
**It shows us what we desire more than we desire God.**
8. How can envy cause us to act out against God?  
**We resent God because we believe He has given us less than we deserve. We believe He owes us more and better than what we have. And we believe He must love others more than us.**
9. Why do we think we deserve what others have?  
**Pride! We think we're better than others; we love ourselves more than the Savior. We are worshiping "King Self."**
10. How can someone get off the throne of their life and stop worshiping themselves?  
**By remembering the gospel! Staring at the cross should kill pride because the cross of Jesus Christ tells us we're bad. So bad, in fact, that the Son of God had to suffer and die for our sins. When we really get the truth of that, it puts to death our pride and rightly puts Christ at the center of our lives and our affections.**

### GOING DEEPER:

*Begin by asking yourself...do I suffer from the sin of envy?*

1. Read James 3:14-17. How does James describe jealousy and selfish ambition?  
**As earthly, natural and demonic.**

What often comes with jealousy and selfish ambition?

**Disorder and every evil thing (vs. 16).**

James contrasts jealousy and selfish ambition with wisdom from above. What does this kind of wisdom look like?

**It's pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.**

2. Read Galatians 5:16-25 and answer the following questions.

What is the result of walking by the Spirit?

**We will not carry out the desires of the flesh (vs. 16).**

What two things are in opposition to each other?

**The desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit (vs. 17).**

What are the deeds of the flesh?

**Sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outburst of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these (verses 19-21).**

According to this passage, who will not inherit the kingdom of God?

**Those who practice the deeds of the flesh as described in verses 19-21.**

In verse 21, the NASB uses the word *practice* to describe the behavior of those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. Check out some commentaries to discover what the word *practice* means in this context.

**In this context, the word practice means lifestyle or habitual behavior. Paul is not saying that someone who does these sins once in a while is not saved, but someone who continually does these things, whose life is characterized by these things, is not saved and thus will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

In verse 22, Paul contrasts the deeds of the flesh with what?

**The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

What have those who belong to Christ Jesus done with their flesh?

**Crucified it, along with its passions and desires (vs. 24).**

What does this mean for our everyday lives?

**It means we don't have to give in to our fleshly desires as we did before we were saved. We can control our behavior by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit and the fruit He is producing in our lives.**

3. How can you apply these two passages to your life, particularly in the areas of envy and jealousy? After you write down your thoughts, take some time to pray about what the Lord has revealed to you through His Word.

## CHAPTER TEN: Is Being Shy a Sin?

1. What was the crux of the young lady's question at the beginning of this segment?  
**She asked how much of herself she should try to change to serve Christ. While only a short part of the letter was read, she was apparently referring to being shy. Since a large part of serving the Lord involves communicating to and with other people, this can be a challenge for people who are shy.**
2. List the six points of encouragement Todd gave to people who are naturally shy.
  1. **God designed you that way. Todd referenced Psalm 139 that says God knit you together in your mother's womb. Being shy is not something about which to feel guilty. The local church body needs a mix of all types of personalities serving God.**
  2. **However, being shy COULD be a sin if you are not trusting the Lord and your shyness is based upon fear of people.**
  3. **Using your shyness as an excuse MIGHT be a sin if you are doing so to get out of doing work for the Lord, such as witnessing.**
  4. **For those who want to be less shy, they should work on it without guilt by remembering the gospel. Love the gospel, be soaked in it, and then you'll be able to tell anybody about Jesus.**
  5. **Shy people can have less outgoing ministries, such as internet witnessing, witnessing on Facebook, blogging, writing, or tract distribution.**
  6. **Witness to those you're comfortable with. In other words, start where you are with the people you know.**

**Always remember...the GOSPEL should be your motivation, NOT guilt.**

### GOING DEEPER:

1. List some words that can describe someone who is shy:  
**Possible answers could include timid, bashful, wallflower, quiet, introverted**
2. Often times, fear is at the heart of shyness or timidity. Explain in detail what a shy or timid person is afraid of.  
**Possible answers should include: fear of other people's opinion of them; fear of being disliked or rejected; fear of being alone; fear of being wrong.**
3. What does Proverbs 29:25 say about the fear of man?  
**It brings or lays a snare.**
4. Explain how the fear of man can bring or lay a snare.  
**We can become entrapped by other people's opinions of us. We then may conform our behavior according to their acceptance instead of according to the truth.**
5. What does 2 Timothy 1:7 say regarding timidity?  
**We have not been given a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.**



6. According to the context of 2 Timothy 1, why have we been given a spirit of power and love and discipline?

**For the furtherance of the gospel, and if God wills, suffering for the gospel.**

7. Read 2 Timothy 2:1. What admonition does Paul give to Timothy? How can this verse encourage someone who is naturally shy or is timid due to fear?

**Paul tells Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

**This verse is a reminder to both the shy and the timid that their strength for ministry comes from God's grace, not from their abilities, personality, skills, or the approval of others. God's grace is given freely and in proportion to the work He has called each person to do. Whether shy or timid, each Christian can rely upon God's grace to give them all they need to fulfill the task to which He has called them.**

## CHAPTER ELEVEN: Accidental Pharisee

1. Why is the local church such an important part of a Believer's spiritual growth?  
**It's where fellow Believers can see our lives and encourage and admonish us as needed.**
2. Todd mentioned the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Read the account in Luke 18:9-14 and answer the following questions:

Who is telling the parable?

**Jesus.**

What kind of people was He telling this parable to? (See verse 9 for a description):

**Those who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and viewed others with contempt.**

What was the Pharisee's prayer?

**"God I thank you that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all I get."**

How would you describe the Pharisee's prayer?

**Possible answers include: Prideful, arrogant, full of contempt, self-righteousness.**

What was the tax collector's prayer?

**"God be merciful to me, a sinner!"**

Describe his body language while he prayed:

**He head was bowed and he was beating his breast.**

How would you describe the tax collector's prayer?

**Possible answers include: humble, contrite, sorrowful.**

What did Jesus say about these two men?

**The tax collector went home justified, but not the Pharisee.**

What was the lesson Jesus was trying to teach with this parable?

**In verse 14, Jesus said that everyone who exalts himself (like the Pharisee) will be humbled, but he who humbles himself (like the tax collector) will be exalted.**

3. List the 6 signs of an accidental Pharisee as presented in this segment, and write out what each means in your own words.
  6. **A spirit of exclusivity – Thinking your church/ministry/group is right and everyone else is wrong.**
  5. **Disdain for those at the back of the line – Contempt for those who aren't as far along in their spiritual development as you are.**
  4. **Gift projection – Thinking everyone should be as enthusiastic as you are in the area God has gifted you in.**
  3. **A quest for clone-like uniformity – A condescending attitude toward those with whom you disagree.**

2. **A pattern of idolizing the past – *Thinking all the churches, theologians, etc. from the past were so much better than today and giving them a pass. Yet, holding today's churches, theologians, etc. to a higher standard.***
1. **Extra-biblical rules and expectations – *Holding to a standard of “Christian behavior” outside of the Bible and judging those who don't meet that standard.***
4. Todd mentioned two reactions that are common after doing a self-examination of sin in our lives. In your own words, describe those two reactions.

**Student's answer should be similar to:**

1. ***A tendency to feel overwhelmed with the sin in your life and have a defeatist, “woe is me” attitude.***
2. ***A tendency to lessen the weight of your sin by comparing yourself to others.***
5. How does remembering the gospel keep us from responding to sin in either of those two ways?
  1. **Don't think less of your sin by comparing it to others because you're such a rotten sinner Jesus had to come die for you.**
  2. **But don't be overwhelmed by the guilt of your sin because Jesus is so good that He came to die for you.**
6. Why remember the gospel?  
**Because it will ALWAYS tell you the truth!**

### GOING DEEPER:

1. Jesus had a lot to say about the scribes and Pharisees of His day. Read one of His descriptions of them in Matthew 23:1-8 and write down everything you learn about them.  
**They sat themselves in Moses' chair (*an expression referring to their position of authority over the people of Israel*); they did not do what they said; they put heavy loads on the people; they did all their deeds to be noticed by men; they broadened their phylacteries (*small leather boxes worn containing Scripture worn on the left arm and forehead*) and lengthened the tassels of their garments; they loved the place of honor at banquets and in the synagogues; and to be called by their title of “Rabbi” in public.**

How did they put heavy loads on the people?

**By adding extra-biblical rules and traditions to the Law of Moses.**

What was the purpose of broadening their phylacteries and lengthening their garment tassels?

**To look extra-spiritual.**

2. How did Jesus counter this attitude and behavior in verses 11 & 12?  
**He turned that kind of thinking upside down by declaring that the greatest among them would actually be their servants. He also said that whoever exalts himself would be humbled and whoever humbles himself would be exalted.**

3. Can you think of examples of modern-day Pharisee-ism (besides the ones Todd mentioned in this segment)? **Examples could include: Christians judging one another based upon denominational differences; Churches setting up extra-biblical rules regarding clothing, entertainment, food and drink, etc.; Christian families looking down on other Christian families for making different school choices; Christians blasting non-Christians for behaving like non-Christians; etc.**
4. What is at the core of Pharisee-ism? In other words, describe the heart attitude of a Pharisee.  
**Answer can include something like: A longing for recognition; being more concerned with his outward appearance and how men see him than on his inward condition which only God can see; feeling good about himself for being obedient to God's Word rather than humbling himself by recognizing the grace of God that made it possible for him to obey; basing his spiritual progress (or lack of it) by comparison to others instead of the Word of God.**
5. Do you struggle with being a Pharisee? Most of us do in one way or another. Write out a prayer to the Lord asking Him to help you recognize those areas where you have a tendency to think or act like a Pharisee. Ask Him also for the grace to confess it as sin and turn away from it, so that you may grow closer to being like Jesus and less like a Pharisee.

## CHAPTER TWELVE: The Cost of Your Sin

1. Todd mentioned three things that the cross of Christ clarifies. What are they?
  1. **The exclusivity of Christ - God bruised His Son in order to pay for the penalty of our sin. He is therefore not OK with other ways of salvation (i.e. other religions or works-based salvation).**
  2. **Christ's blood is sufficient for the "big" sins you commit: homosexual relationships (and all sex outside of marriage between a man and woman), murder, etc.**
  3. **What we often consider "respectable" or "little" sins are as wicked as the "big" ones because they all require the blood of Jesus Christ in order to be forgiven.**
2. Explain how the crucifixion of Christ allows God to be just in his judgment of sin and at the same time be able to justify sinners?

**God poured out His wrath on His perfect Son to take the penalty we deserve for the sins we have committed. Because God is good, He had to give sin what it deserves...its payment must be paid by somebody. Therefore His perfect justice was met in the shedding of Christ's blood. And because our sins have been paid for, God can declare us justified. We have a right standing with Him through the shed blood of His Son.**
3. How did Paul Washer explain repentance?

**A giving up of trying to justify yourself before God. You stand before God and say, "Unless You move on my behalf, I am damned."**

### GOING DEEPER:

1. Isaiah 53 is a prophesy about Jesus' suffering and crucifixion. Read the entire chapter, and then answer the following questions:

What did Jesus do for us according to verses 4-7? (List everything that is mentioned in these verses.)

**He bore our griefs  
He carried our sorrows  
He was pierced through for our transgressions  
He was crushed for our iniquities  
The chastising of our well-being fell on Him  
He was scourged for our healing  
Our iniquity fell on Him  
He was oppressed and afflicted**

How did Jesus respond to his suffering?  
**Verse 7 - He did not open his mouth**

Which verse states Jesus' innocence?  
**Verse 9 - He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.**

How did God the Father view Jesus' suffering and death?

**Verse 10 - It pleased the Lord to crush Him, putting Him to grief**

According to verses 10-12, what was the purpose for Christ's suffering and death?

**Verse 10 - Jesus death was a guilt offering (required by the Law for forgiveness of sin)**

**Verse 11 - To justify the many and bear their iniquities**

**Verse 12 - Interceded for the transgressors**

2. Summarize your thoughts on Jesus' suffering and crucifixion. Think about what this means for you personally. Include any other Scripture passages that help you understand what Jesus went through to pay the penalty for your sin and the implications this has for your life. ***Student's answer should be well thought out and include Scripture references.***
3. Look up the following verses on repentance and write down what you learn about this important word.

**Luke 13:1-5 - Two times Jesus states this important truth: unless someone repents they will perish.**

**Luke 24:46-47 - Jesus told His disciples that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed to all the nations.**

**Acts 3:19 - We must repent in order to have our sins wiped away.**

**Acts 17:30 - God commands all men everywhere to repent.**

**2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.**

**James 4:8-10 - God will draw near to us when we draw near to Him, seeking to have clean hands and a pure heart, recognizing our sinful state before Him and humbling ourselves.**

**2 Corinthians 7:9-11 - Godly sorrow produces a repentance that leads to salvation; worldly sorrow leads to death.**

**2 Timothy 2:25 - Repentance is granted by God.**

4. Have you repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation? If not, please think about your sin. Think about how you've violated God's Ten Commandments over and over again in word, thought, and deed. Then, think about what Jesus did on the Cross so you could be forgiven of your sins – all of them. Take some time to reflect and talk to God about the state of your soul. Nothing is more important or urgent right now than giving serious thought to this issue.

If you have repented and put your trust in Jesus Christ, take a few moments to worship the Lord for what He has done for you. Thank Him for his amazing grace. Praise Him for His kindness and love toward you. Write out your thoughts in a prayer, or a psalm of praise.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN: Our Relentless War Against Sin

1. How does battling sin indicate you're genuinely saved?  
**As God grows us in holiness (another way to describe sanctification), we become increasingly aware of our sin and begin to hate it more and more. If someone doesn't hate their sin, doesn't battle against it, or consider it their enemy, then there's a good chance they're not saved.**
2. What is a besetting sin? Give several examples of besetting sins.  
**It's a sin that we battle against every day and can't seem to get victory over once and for all. Examples can include lust, lying, gossiping, envying, etc.**
3. List the six reasons God allows us to continue to battle sin, according to Tommy Clayton, and explain each in your own words.
  1. To make us humble and dependent on God – *Battling sin forces us to realize we can't be sanctified by our own efforts. We must continually be dependent upon God.*
  2. To cultivate thankfulness – *As we grow and experience victory over sin, we should recognize the reason for this success. It is because of the Holy Spirit working inside of us. We should be thankful for His faithfulness to transform us into the image of His Son.*
  3. To promote compassion – *Battling sin should cause us to move toward compassion for others who are also in a battle against sin.*
  4. To keep our focus on the gospel – *Battling sin keeps us anchored to the gospel, trusting in its continuing provision of grace, instead of focusing on ourselves and our own efforts to overcome it.*
  5. To make us long for heaven – *Keeps us looking upward and desiring our final home.*
  6. To experience God's sustaining grace as opposed to only reading about it – *Makes the gospel real in our lives.*

### GOING DEEPER:

1. In order to battle sin in the power of the Holy Spirit, we must engage in the battle according to God's Word. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and answer the following questions.


What is the first command given in this passage and how are we to obey this command?  
**In verse 10, Paul commands us to "be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." We obey this by putting on the full armor of God as Paul goes on to explain in the following verses.**

What is the reason to put on the armor of God?  
**To be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil (vs. 11) and be able to resist in the evil day by standing firm (vs. 13).**

How does Paul describe our struggle?  
**Verse 12 - It is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, powers, world forces of darkness, spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places.**

Describe each piece of spiritual armor, and include as much information as the text gives you. (You may want to read verses 13-17 in several different translations to get a better understanding of what each piece represents.) Also, draw a picture of that armor in the box below each piece. This may sound like a silly exercise, but it will help you better remember what each piece of armor represents. Don't be shy, draw away!

**Belt of truth**




**Breastplate of righteousness**



**Shoes for the preparation of the gospel of peace**



**Shield of faith  
Used to extinguish the flaming  
arrows of the evil one (verse 16)**



**Helmet of salvation**



**Sword of the Spirit  
The Word of God (verse 17)**





What do you think the connection is between vs. 13-17 and vs. 18?

**The main activity in this spiritual battle is prayer.**

List everything you learn about prayer from verse 18.

**We are to pray at all times, in the Spirit. Be on the alert with all perseverance, petitioning for fellow Believers.**

2. Ask yourself honestly how you're doing battling sin and the enemy of your soul, Satan. Here are some questions to get you started on your self-reflection. Write down your thoughts, and then spend some time praying through some of your reflections.

Am I experiencing a growing hatred for my sin?

Am I intentionally engaging in the battle of sin?

Am I experiencing victory over sin?

Am I giving prayer the priority that God's Word commands?

Am I remembering the gospel as I battle my sin?

If you want further information about how to become a Christian, please go to [www.wretched.tv](http://www.wretched.tv). You'll find helpful (and free!) information on what it means to be a Christian and how you can know for sure you're saved.