

THE SINNER'S CONFLICT

Int.

1. Aim: To show how a man who lives in sin is torn apart and is miserable !
2. Rom. 7:15-25 is known as the Sinner's conflict !
 - a. Conflict = war, battle, collision, disagreement [syn. Discord - lack of agreement or harmony
 - b. Conflict of interests - judge owns stock in a firm involved in a law suit
 - c. The sinner has a conflict with his knowledge and his actions.
3. Rom. 7:15 (KJS) "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I." (NKJV) "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do."
 - a. Allow in KJV is from a word that means know or understand - he does not understand the consequences.
 - b. Example of Paul - he persecuted the church - He was conscious of his acts, but he was ignorant of the nature and consequences of his deeds. But he said: "I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." 1 Tim. 1:13
 - c. Sinners today do not understand the full nature and consequences of the life they are living.
4. Rom. 7:19 (KJS) "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do."
 - a. The good left undone - the bad I do
 - b. He knows better than he does
5. We all have conflicts - Plan to do good but fail - Decide to give up bad but do not !

Discussion

I. THE GOOD WE FAIL TO DO

A. Bible Study

1. Resolve to read and study the Bible - Many start in January with a plan to read
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:15
 - b. 1 Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"
2. But we often get busy and neglect to read and study the Bible

B. Attendance

1. We decide that we are not going to miss / forsake again
2. Heb. 10:25 tells us that it is sinful to intentionally forsake "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
3. But we will often forsake

C. Giving

1. 1 Cor. 16:2 "Upon the first [day] of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as [God] hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
 - a. I intend to give more - Be liberal in my giving / cheerful giver
 - b. What if we prospered as we gave ?
2. Some intend to increase their contributions, but they always find something else to buy with their money !

D. Teaching

1. We know we should
 - a. Matt. 28:18-20 Mark. 16:15-16
 - b. We realize that we are responsible for teaching the lost
2. Heb. 5:12 "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."
3. The time has come and gone and we are not teaching, thus we need to be taught again.

E. Become a Christian

1. Some of you understand the gospel - know you are lost - Want to obey -
2. Waiting for that convenient season - Acts 24:25 "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

II. THE BAD WE DO [Plan not to do, yet we do]

- A. Yield to sin - besetting sin - Heb. 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"
 1. Anger - Eph. 4:26 "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:"

2. Cursing - Eph. 4:29 "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

3. Gossiping

a. Pro. 11:13 "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter."

b. III. Of Gossiping - We Rolled a Stone

B. Many become backsliders

1. Hosea 4:16 "For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer: now the LORD will feed them as a lamb in a large place."

2. Jer. 7:24 "But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels [and] in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward."

3. It happens gradually - become negligent - lukewarm - addicted to worldliness

4. Did not intend to stray, but we find ourselves in this condition !

C. We are in a dilemma - want to do good, and avoid doing bad but often do just the opposite.....

III. CHRIST IS THE WAY - Rom. 7:24 - 25a

A. How can we remedy this situation?

1. We do bad instead of good
2. We fail to do the good we know we should

B. The remedy is two-fold

1. Resist the Devil - Jas. 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
 - a. Take your stand against the devil
 - b. Recognize him as an enemy and fight off all his advances
 - c. Refuse to yield to his allurements
 - (1) Partial obedience is really disobedience
 - (2) To yield slightly will open the door
 - (3) Sometimes we hear people make the statement: "They could be doing something worse".
 - (a) Implies they are doing something bad
 - (b) Opens the door for the devil
 - (c) Soon they will be doing something worse !!
 - d. The Devil He is not as brave as he appears to be
 - (1) He will abandon us if we stand firm
 - (2) 1 Cor. 10:12-13 "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]."

- (3) There is a way of escape
 - (4) An Exit will be provided - an outlet
 - e. Eph. 6:10-17 describes our Christian armor which is to help us resist the devil. In V. 13 he says: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." - we are not to retreat - but stand firmly against Satan !!!
2. DRAW NIGH TO GOD - Jas. 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [ye] double minded."
- a. Get close to God - Then He will come close to us
 - b. Do not come near him physically for he is near to all of us
 - c. We come near when:
 - (1) We study God's word
 - (2) We worship God in spirit and truth
 - (3) We serve him faithfully
 - (4) We live the daily life of a Christian
 - d. 2 Chr 15:2 "And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD [is] with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."
 - e. Come near and He will come near !

C. Unless we draw nigh we will die

1. Rom. 7:24 "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"
2. Ancient tyrants bound a dead body to the person alive. He was made to carry it until it took his own life. III. Card file - "Sin - dead body"
3. This is the way sin is tied to our life - a whole mass of sin, corruption, chained to him which he could not break ! Sin in our body will cause our soul to be lost !
4. Who can deliver me?

D. Christ can deliver us

1. Rom. 7:25 "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."
2. Only Christ can deliver a soul from sin
 - a. The truth shall make us free - Jn. 8:32
 - b. Forgives our sin because Christ died for them
3. He also delivers us from the love of sin
 - a. Rom. 6:16-18
 - b. Become servants of righteousness
4. Christ can deliver us for he is the way - John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Conclusion

1. All have sinned -
 - a. Rom. 3:10-12 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."
 - b. Rom. 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
2. We all are in conflict with sin !
 - a. We know to do good but often we fail
 - b. We know to avoid evil but often we don't
3. Sin will destroy us for we read in Rom. 6:23 "The wages of sin is death."
4. But God's gift of eternal life is offered
5. If you are not a Christian then you should come today !
 - a. Have you planned to obey before you die ?
 - b. Why wait? When will you die?
 - c. If it is good for you to obey next week, or next month, it would be good to do it today!
 - d. Delay is dangerous, for Christ may come or you may die.
 - e. Delay is useless and reckless
 - f. Why not obey right now ?