

TEMPTATION

- I. The Source of Temptation
 - A. James tells us that temptation is inevitable. (vs. 13,14)
 1. Notice the text says “when” not “if”.
 2. Also see I Corinthians 10:13; “when” not “if”
 - B. God is never the source of temptation. (vs. 13)
 1. God desires us to be holy. (I Peter 1:15, 16)
 2. God has promised that we won’t be tempted beyond what we can bear. (I Corinthians 10:13)
 3. God has promised that when we are tempted that He will also provide a way of escape. (I Corinthians 10:13)
 4. God has promised that He will help us in the midst of temptation. (Hebrews 2:18)
 - C. The source of temptation if our own desires.
 1. Read Mark 7:20-23
 2. The Bible speaks of three desires: (I John 2:16)
 - “lust of the flesh” – desire to indulge
 - “lust of the eyes” – desire to possess
 - “pride of life” – desire to impress
- II. The Process of Temptation (vs. 14, 15)
 - A. You possess a desire. (vs. 14)
 1. “desire” or “lust” = “an intense longing”
 - not necessarily negative; many desires are good
 - It is just when they are met outside of God’s boundaries that they become sinful.
 2. Bait then appears. (vs. 14)
 - “entice” = “to lure by bait”
 3. You are then drawn out and take the bait.
 - “carried away” = “to draw out”
 - Bass Illustration
 - The bass has a place of safety and security at the bottom of a lake.
 - The bass has a deep desire for ‘big, fat, red worms.’
 - A fisherman drops a “big, fat, red worm” to the bottom of the lake.
 - The bass begins to watch the worm.
 - The ‘big, fat, red worm’ draws out the bass from his place of safety and security.
 - Eventually, the ‘big, fat, red worm’ captures the bass’ full attention.
 - Then the bass responds and swallows the ‘big, fat, red worm’ only to find out that he has been hooked.
 4. This inevitably gives birth to death.
 5. James says that sin occurs when the desire and the bait meet. (vs. 15)
 - The Bible never says temptation is sin.
- III. The Solution for Temptation (vs. 16, 17)
 - A. “Do not be deceived” about sin
 1. Although sin does possess immediate gratification the end result is death.
 2. Sin appears fulfilling and satisfying but it is not.
 3. Story of EG Lee
 - B. “Do not be deceived” about God
 1. Satan will try and tempt you to believe that God is a liar and He is not fulfilling and satisfying.
 2. Jeremiah 2:13
 - C. Deal with the root
 - D. The Principle of Displacement
 1. Romans 12:1
 2. Philippians 4:8
 3. Play offense, not defense