**LifeGroup Study**

**YOU’RE RICHER THAN YOU THINK**

**Win Your War With Sin**

**2022-05-22**

**Leader Notes**

**OVERVIEW:**

Welcome back to our series, You’re Richer Than You Think. This week we’re looking at Colossians 3:1-17. There are six strategies to win the war against sin in our lives. Paul outlines them here for us. 1) Own Your Fight 2) Kill Your Sin. 3) Direct Your Heart. 4) Replace Your Sin. 5) Continue the Fight. 6) Worship the LORD. To win the war with sin, we must understand and engage in these actions. Our goal is to experience the freedom God designed us to know.

**ICEBREAKER:** Winning Felt So Good!

One of our favourite games to play as a family is Dutch Blitz. My family members are super competitive with this game and I usually get left in the dust. But recently, I was on a roll. I was unstoppable. I won two games in a row! I’ve gotta say – winning felt good! How about you? What game, sporting event or life experience have you had where you came out on top and it felt good? **Share your winning experience with your group!**

**STUDY:**

He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross

so that we can be *dead* to sin and *live* for what is right.

By his wounds you are healed.

1 Peter 2:24 NLT

In the teaching on Sunday, we learned of six strategies to help us win the war against sin in our lives. **What was a highlight for you from that teaching?**

**READ: Colossians 3:1-17**

In these verses we find SIX ACTIONS WE NEED TO TAKE TO WIN OUR WAR WITH SIN.

Let’s review each of them.

**1. OWN YOUR FIGHT**

Jesus dealt with the penalty of sin for us through his death, burial and resurrection. But the presence of sin and the power of sin are still active on all of us.

* **What does it mean to you that the penalty of sin is no longer against you?**

LEADER NOTE: Jesus paid the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross and taking the penalty in our place. The fact that the penalty of sin is no longer against us means we fight our war with sin from a position of victory (see Colossians 2:15). We are no longer condemned but have been reconciled to God through Christ.

* **What does it mean to you that the presence and power of sin are still actively seeking to influence you?**

LEADER NOTE: Sin’s presence and power seek to influence us through the world (aspects of our culture opposed to God) the flesh (our sinful nature) and the devil (our spiritual enemy, Satan). A follower of Christ has a new nature and a new position in Christ, but we are still at war. Sin is present and powerful and seeks to influence us away from God.

READ: Colossians 3:7-8a

**7You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these:**

There is a **“used to”** and a **“But now”** in this passage. This passage seems to indicate that believers struggle with the same sins as they did before they were saved. **What’s the difference between those two states then?**

LEADER NOTE: In our “used to” state we were controlled by our sinful nature and lived to please it. We were condemned in our sin and powerless to defeat it. In our “but now” state, although we are influenced to sin, we are no longer controlled by it. No longer do we live to please our sinful nature. Now we live to please Christ. We are forgiven and made right with God and we have His power at work in us to help us win the war.

**2. KILL YOUR SIN**

Don’t shame it. Don’t blame it. Don’t injure it. Don’t wound it. Don’t play with it. Don’t excuse it. Kill it.

**Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:**

Colossians 3:5

John Owen, an English pastor and theologian wrote this in the early 1600’s. “Always be killing sin or sin will be killing you.”

* **How does the imagery of killing your sin help in the fight against it?**

LEADER NOTE: The image of killing our sin *focuses* our fight. We are not just managing sin, but doing away with it. This image also helps us to deal with sin *seriously* and *completely*. Sin is like mold in the corner of a room. If we don’t take out the whole thing, it will fester and grow.

**3. DIRECT YOUR HEART**

**READ:** Colossians 3:1-4

* **What kinds of things do you do to help set your heart and mind on things above?**

LEADER NOTE: Setting our heart and mind on things above is about making Jesus our top priority in life. This is a head and heart thing. It’s about focusing our thoughts and affection on Him. Spiritual habits like a daily quiet time with God, attending church and participating in a LifeGroup give us regular reminders of the importance of our commitment to follow Jesus. Setting our heart and mind on things above will impact every area of our lives – relationships, finances, goals and so on.

A longing for what is above has a way of weakening

the longing for what is below.

**4. REPLACE YOUR SIN**

In verse 8 Paul writes,

**But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: . . .**

Colossians 3:8

But after instructing us to get rid of sins he calls on us to grab hold of some other things.

**Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with . . .**

Colossians 3:12

READ: Colossians 3:12b-14.

* **Think of some sins a person might struggle with. What virtue would help counter the power of a particular sin?**

LEADER NOTE:

Practicing virtues can help counter the negative impact of sin. Here are examples of virtues and the sin they can counter.

VIRTUE SIN

Mercy Cruelty

Kindness Malevolence

Humility Pride

Gentleness Violence

Patience Hostility

**5. CONTINUE THE FIGHT**

**Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, sharing in His resurrection from the dead], keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your mind *and* keep focused *habitually* on the things above**

Colossians 3:1-2 Amplified Version

Every time you say yes to a sin your give it greater power over your life – you increase its influence – every time you say no to a sin you weaken its power over you –

John Owen – The power of sin is weakened little by little

* **How do you feel when you realize that your whole life is going to be a battle against sin?**

LEADER NOTE: While this reality can feel discouraging, we can also be thankful that God gives us power to fight the battle. Knowing our whole life is going to be a battle with sin should make us alert and ready to do battle each day. (see Eph. 6:10-18)

* **Even though it is an ongoing battle you should see victory and growth along the way. Is that your experience? Can you share it with the group?**

LEADER NOTE: Sharing our stories of victory and growth can be a great encouragement to each other. Encourage your group members to think about how your LifeGroup has helped give them a place where they can experience victory and growth in their war with sin. Victory stories don’t have to be dramatic. Any steps away from sin and toward Jesus are worth celebrating!

**6. WORSHIP THE LORD**

**15Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

Colossians 3:15-17

You worship your way into sin by bowing to its lies

and you will worship your way out of it by bowing to the King of kings.

* **How is sinning an act of worship? Do you think of it that way when you sin? How does the idea that it is an act of worship impact you?**

LEADER NOTE: Sinning is worship. The Bible calls is idolatry. We worship sin when we yield to it, when we say “yes” to it, when we believe that what it has to offer is better than what God has to offer. The idea that sinning is an act of worship shows us the seriousness of sin . This should impact our response to sin. Sin is not something to be toyed with, as if it can coexist with our love for God. We are in a war and sin must be killed.

1. Think back through the 6 Strategies. **Which one is top priority for you these days?**
2. **As a LifeGroup, what practical steps could you take to win the war with sin?**

LEADER NOTE: Your LifeGroup can provide practical steps to help your group members win their war with sin. LifeGroup should be a place where group members can be OPEN about their lives. Group should be a place where group members trust that what they share will be kept confidential. LifeGroup can provide ACCOUNTABILITY as members confess their sin to one another. LifeGroup provides ENCOURAGEMENT as group members speak words of hope to one another and pray for one another.

**EXPERIENCE GOD**

**WATCH** – See a Victory – Elevation Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEK6_rz26z0>

**PRAY** – “God, thank You for the victory we have in You!”

**COLOSSIANS DEVOS:**

Each week of this series we have 5 devotionals for you to read on your own.

Read the devos this week and notice how this habit enriches your walk with Jesus!

<https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/richer-than-you-think/>

**PRAY**

This week, let’s pray for the Big Serve! <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/thebigserve/>

* The Big Serve is happening this week!! Please pray for everyone who will be serving in and around our community.
* Please pray for our volunteers to learn something new and be impacted by our local partners in a lasting way.
* Pray that each project will go smoothly!