**LifeGroup Study**

**YOU’RE RICHER THAN YOU THINK**

**Win Your War With Sin**

**2022-05-22**

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

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?

**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?**

**3. DIRECT YOUR HEART**

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

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

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?**

**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

you 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?**
* **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?**

**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?**
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?**

**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!