



## BCF LESSONS 20 & 21 Life-Dominating Sins

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Today as we look at the topic of life-dominating sin, we'll be searching for answers to a few important questions:

1. What is the definition of a life-dominating sin?
2. Can a \_\_\_\_\_ have life-dominating sin?
3. Does God hold us responsible for all our deeds, including thoughts, words, and actions?
4. Is there \_\_\_\_\_ for someone caught in a life-dominating sin?

### Dead to Sin, Alive to God

Romans 6:1-2 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

<sup>2</sup> Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

If God loves to forgive, why not give him more to forgive? If forgiveness is guaranteed - - -, do we have the freedom to sin as much as we want? Paul's forceful answer is *By no means!* Such an attitude – deciding ahead of time to take advantage of God's grace shows that a person does not understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

Romans 6:7 (NKJV) For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Our "old self", our sinful nature, died once and for all, so we are freed from its power. As a believer, you are not to live by the old nature. You have a new nature, and you are to yield yourself or present yourself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

According to this verse:

1) Our \_\_\_\_\_ desires, 2) our \_\_\_\_\_ to sin, and 3) our \_\_\_\_\_ of sin died with Him.

### We have to \_\_\_\_\_ to pick up our cross on a daily basis!

We make choices everyday, either to complain about our struggles with the flesh and yield to the, or make the necessary changes and yield to God.

### A basic definition of life-dominating sin would be:

A sinful, repetitious action that has become \_\_\_\_\_ to the point where it is so intertwined with our life that one becomes known by the sin.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the determining factor.

??? Now, if the Bible were to say that a believer can not be completely \_\_\_\_\_ by sin, would that help answer the following question: Can a Christian be involved with life-dominating sin???

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

So, can a Christian be \_\_\_\_\_ entangled in life-dominating sin? Don't think so, according to God's Word. - - - Will you struggle against your flesh? Absolutely. But, are some Christians just destined to remain in bondage to a problem area or two that seem to be reoccurring more often that they should? Absolutely not! We must fight against our flesh, pray for God's strength, and willfully choose not to succumb to that temptation, until we get the victory.

**Now let's look at the question: does God hold us responsible for all our deeds, including thoughts, words, and actions?**

The world's view is that man's \_\_\_\_\_ is often caused by genetic predisposition and are perceived as addictions, diseases, or mental illnesses. Also, the environment that we were raised in, or a dysfunctional childhood will often give an individual freedom from \_\_\_\_\_ for their actions.

To an extent I agree with the world's perspective. The Bible does teach that every person on this planet is genetically predisposed to sin according to:

Romans 5:12 (NKJV) Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -- Sin has been in our DNA for thousands of years. I also agree that all people come from a dysfunctional family. The Adams Family!

**God's View:** Our works will be \_\_\_\_\_ by the motives behind them.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

**Our hope:** No matter how serious or longstanding our sin, it can be \_\_\_\_\_ and in a very short period of time, as we follow God's plan for our life.

1 John 5:3-5 (NIV) <sup>3</sup> In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Results of not being honest with God and staying enslaved to sin:

1. God may not hear or answer our prayers. Proverbs 28:9 Psalm 66:18
2. You will bear spiritual and physical consequences. Psalm 32:3-5
3. You may lose your joy and assurance of salvation. Psalm 51:8-12
4. You place yourself under the corrective discipline of the Lord. Hebrews 12:5-11

**Your Change:** Immediately stop \_\_\_\_\_ to the control of sin, and determine instead to place yourself under the control of the Holy Spirit...commit to obey God's precepts.

1 Peter 2:11-12

**Your Practice:**

1. Make a thorough examination of yourself to determine if you are a true believer in Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV) Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?---unless indeed you are disqualified.
2. Do a thorough \_\_\_\_\_ evaluation of the people you are around and the circumstances that affect your life dominating sin.  
1 Corinthians 15:33 (NKJV) Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."  
Psalm 139:23-24 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; <sup>24</sup> And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.
3. Take \_\_\_\_\_ steps to eliminate, resist, or flee from temptations.  
Proverbs 27:12 (NIV) The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.

Remember, there were two trees in the center of the Garden of Eden. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life. Adam and Eve were given the freedom to choose to obey the Lord or not. We make the same choice every day.

**CHOOSE LIFE, and LIFE ABUNDANT (JOHN 10:10)**

## Homework

### Lessons 20 & 21

## Life-Dominating Sins

Prayerfully complete the following questions (use the back of the paper for continuation of answers). Please make a copy for you to keep, as this will be turned in to your small group leader.

1. In what ways has your life changed by participating in BCF 2019?
2. In what ways has your life changed in the areas of dealing with Self?
3. In what ways has your life changed in the areas of Anger and Bitterness?
4. In what ways has your life changed in the areas of Interpersonal Problems with your Neighbor?
5. In what ways has your life changed in the areas of your Marriage (singles – as per the lesson)?
6. In what ways has your life changed in the areas of the Parent-Child Relationship?
7. In what ways has your life changed in the areas of Depression?
8. In what ways has your life changed in the areas of Fear and Worry?
9. In what ways has your life changed in the areas of Life-Dominating Sin?
10. How has BCF 2019 made an impact on your life and the testimony that you will be sharing with others who do not know who Jesus is?



The Bible states that we are to conform to the likeness of Christ, with these visible characteristics consistently evidenced in our lives:

**Galatians 5:22-24 (NKJV)**

- <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.  
<sup>24</sup> And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NKJV)**

- <sup>4</sup> Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;  
<sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails.

Below you will find a list of fruits of the flesh, "Character Flaws To Conquer" (characteristics that do not honor the Lord).

This is for your personal spiritual growth alone, for God's and your eyes only (even though you may share with whomever you wish).

Please circle ALL that you would honestly say may apply to you, being manifested in the last several years. You may find yourself circling 20 or more of these areas you would like to surrender to the Lord.

Print another copy, give it to someone who knows you and the Bible well (someone besides your spouse or family member), ask them to circle ALL characteristics they would honestly say may apply to you, being manifested in the last several years, and ask them to return to you. Do not give this project to someone who will not be absolutely and completely honest with you.

Keep both copies, and pray through them weekly, seeking the Holy Spirit's power to overcome the presence of these flaws in your life. This task will prove itself invaluable at the end of the course.



## CHARACTER FLAWS TO CONQUER

Circle any potential character flaws that apply to you

- **Abusive** – Characterized by improper infliction of physical or psychological maltreatment towards another.
- **Addict (Professing)** – Unrestrained compulsive activity. Gambling, alcohol, drugs, sex, shopping, internet, video games, etc.
- **Aimless / Apathetic** – Indifferent, lack of enthusiasm, devoid of direction or purpose, showing little emotion, expressionless, spiritless, lack of concern.
- **Angry** – Irritation and aggravation with others leads to internal/external hostility.
- **Anxious** – Constantly in distress or uneasiness because of fear of danger or misfortune; greatly worried; nervous, jumpy, annoyed.
- **Arrogant / Rude / Snobbish** – Having or displaying a sense of overbearing self-worth or self-importance. Others are inferior.
- **Bigot** – One who is strongly partial to one's own group, religion, race, or politics and is intolerant of those who differ.
- **Blunt (Overly)** – insensitive, callous, brash, brassy, gruff, stern, hard.
- **Callous / Cold** – Hardened to emotions, rarely showing any form of emotions in expression, unfeeling.
- **Childish** – Marked by or indicating a lack of maturity.
- **Co-Dependent / People Pleaser** – Validating self-worth through appeasing others, even at the expense of truth, enabler.
- **Complainer / Grumbler** – Prone to faultfinding, judgmental, sin sniffing, lacking grace.
- **Disloyal** – Lacking loyalty. Unfaithful in commitments, not valuing others time. Your yes is not yes. Fickle.
- **Egotistical** – Having an inflated idea of their own importance. Boastful, pompous, selfish.
- **Envious** – Greed of another's acquirements in life, painfully desirous of another's advantages, covetous, jealous.
- **Gluttonous** – Given to excess in consumption especially of food and/or drink.
- **Gossip** – Prone to unrestrained conversations with unconfirmed details. Spreading rumors, stories, slander to harm another's reputation.



- **Gullible** – Believes any information given, regardless of how valid or truthful it is, easily deceived or duped, naïve, lacking discernment and critical thinking skills.
- **Hedonistic** – Pursuit of worldly pleasures or senses. Lust for worldly things/stuff.
- **Humorless** – The inability to find humor in things, especially in themselves.
- **Hypocritical** – One whose behavior contradicts their own beliefs.
- **Ignorant** (Willfully) – Intentional lack of desire to pursue knowledge, information, wisdom or intellectual growth.
- **Impatient** – Unable to wait patiently or tolerate delay; restless. Unable to endure irritation or opposition; intolerant.
- **Indecisive** – Characterized by lack of decision and firmness, especially under pressure.
- **Intolerant** – Unwilling to tolerate difference of opinion and narrow-minded about self-cherished opinions.
- **Immature** – Emotionally undeveloped; juvenile; childish.
- **Judgmental** – Inclined to make and form judgments, especially moral or personal ones, based on ones own opinions or impressions towards others, i.e.: practices/groups/religions based on appearance, reputation, occupation, etc.
- **Lazy** – Resistant to work, exertion, spiritual growth. Disposed to idleness.
- **Liar** – Compulsively and purposefully tells false truths, regardless of motivation.
- **Meddlesome** – Given to meddling; interfering, taking on other's offenses.
- **Miser** – Prone to greed, stinginess, ungenerous.
- **Naive** – Lacking worldly experience and understanding, simple and guileless; showing or characterized by a lack of sophistication and critical judgment.
- **Nosy** – Given to prying into the affairs of others; snoop. Offensively curious or inquisitive.
- **Obsessive** – An unhealthy and compulsive preoccupation with something or someone.
- **Overprotective** – Coddler, enabler, overly spoil, pamper, overly indulgent.
- **Paranoid** – Extreme and irrational fear or distrust of others.
- **Peevish** – Unjustifiable dissatisfaction. Cantankerous, cross, ill tempered, testy, captious, discontented, crotchety, cranky, ornery, disagreeable.
- **Pessimist** – A tendency to stress the negative or unfavorable or to take the gloomiest possible view.
- **Proud** – Filled with or showing excessive self -esteem, and will often shirk help from others for the sake of pride.



- **Rebellious** – Defying or resisting some established authority, government, or tradition; insubordinate; inclined to rebel.
- **Reckless** – Heedless. Headstrong. Foolhardy. Unthinking boldness, wild carelessness and disregard for consequences.
- **Remorseless** – Without remorse; merciless; pitiless; relentless.
- **Sarcastic** – A subtle form of intentional mockery to inflict injury.
- **Selfish** – Concerned chiefly or only with oneself.
- **Self-Martyr** – One who purposely makes a great show of suffering in order to arouse sympathy from others, as a form of manipulation.
- **Self-righteous** – Piously sure of one's own righteousness. Moralistic. Exhibiting pious self-assurance. Holier-than-thou, sanctimonious.
- **Shallow** – Lacking depth of intellect or knowledge; concerned only with what is obvious.
- **Smug** – Haughtily confident of one's ability, superiority, or correctness.
- **Spineless** – Lacking courage. Cowardly, wimpish, gutless.
- **Spiteful** – Showing malicious ill will and a desire to hurt; motivated by spite; vindictive person who will look for occasions for resentment. Vengeful.
- **Spoiled** – Treated with excessive indulgence and pampering from earliest childhood, and has no notion of hard work, self-care or money management; coddled, pampered.
- **Stubborn** – Unreasonably unyielding; bullheaded, stiff-necked.
- **Tactless** – Lacking or showing a lack of what is fitting and considerate in dealing with others.
- **Temperamental** – Moody, irritable, or hyper-sensitive, volatile, emotionally led.
- **Theatrical** – Having a flair for over dramatizing situations, inflating the severity, drama queen/king. Every challenge in life is "code-red".
- **Troublemaker** – Someone who deliberately, intentionally, stirs up trouble.
- **Untrustworthy** – Not worthy of trust or belief. Unfaithful with given tasks.
- **User** – A person who uses something or someone selfishly or unethically.
- **Vain** – Holding or characterized by an unduly high opinion of their physical appearance. Lovers of themselves. Conceited, egotistic, narcissistic.
- **Withdrawn** – Unfriendly, unsociable, aloof.



## CHARACTER FLAWS TO CONQUER REVISTED

List your original Character Flaws to Conquer below (refer to the original copy where you circled you Character Flaws to Conquer):

In what 5 areas did you gain the most spiritual growth, and how has you life changed a result?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.