

HOW TO MASTER SIN

Ephesians 4:17-24

I. Recognize sin is a matter of _____: v17

- Insist
- Must no longer
- Walk

A matter of the will

Q 1: Are you willing to recognize the power of your will?

II. Recognize sin is because of _____: v17b-21

No one would ever sin if they were thinking clearly.

- Futility of their thinking
- Darkened in their understanding
- Ignorance due to hardened hearts
- Lost all sensitivity
- Contrast the truth that is in Jesus

Q 2: Would you choose to take the 'red pill' that would unmask the deceptions of your temptations?

III. Recognize and practice the Put _____ – Put _____ principle: v22-24

The walk of faith is NOT simply to stop sinning, but always to **replace** sin with its opposite. Eg: T-shirts

- Put off lying → put on truth telling (v25)
- Put off taking → put on giving (v28)
- Put off bitter words → put on words that build up (v29)
- Put off bitterness → put on kindness & forgiveness (v31-2)

The expulsive power of a superior affection (4:32 – 5:2: next week)

Q 3: Are you willing to intentionally pursue Christ in such a way that makes Him the most compelling thing in your life?

IV. Recognize the need to **be** _____ in the way you think: v23-24

Not simply a moralistic decision (v17) but a new creation (v23-24, cf. 2:10) by God's Spirit.

This is the difference between joyful heart change and mere self-improvement that inevitably leads to ugly self-righteousness.

Q 4: Do you **want** to be **renewed** in your thinking and desires?

These 4 steps are at the root of seeing progress in overcoming root sins in your life.

And Jesus is at the root of the 4 steps.

Come to Jesus and be made new!