

OVERCOMING OUR ACCUSER

Because we are the _____ human beings we are, we leave room for Satan's _____.

Psychology and our culture calls this "Cognitive Dissonance" (*when we try eliminate inconsistency of _____ and _____*).

In practice, people try to reduce their cognitive dissonance by:

1. Change the behavior or the cognition (*"I'll eat no more of this doughnut."*)
2. Justify the behavior or the cognition, by changing the conflicting cognition (*"I'm allowed to cheat my diet every once in a while."*)
3. Justify the behavior or the cognition by adding new behaviors or cognitions (*"I'll spend thirty extra minutes at the gymnasium to work off the doughnut."*)
4. Ignore or deny information that conflicts with existing beliefs (*"This doughnut is not a high-sugar food."*)

However, what is being described is a sin of _____ and rebellion instead of _____ which turns our hearts to _____, contrition and _____.

Satan's Ploy

Satan uses our fallen nature and our culture to pin us between the "rock and the hard place" of professing _____ and still living as _____. But in accusing us, Satan drives us to the _____ – and eventually his own doom.

"Let us equip ourselves against the accusations of Satan with this and similar passages of Holy Scripture. If he says, 'Thou shalt be damned,' you tell him: 'No, for I fly to Christ who gave Himself for my sins. In accusing me of being a damnable sinner, you are cutting your own throat, Satan. You are reminding me of God's fatherly goodness

toward me, that He so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. In calling me a sinner, Satan, you really comfort me above measure.' With such heavenly cunning we are to meet the devil's craft and put from us the memory of sin."

Martin Luther, Commentary on Galatians

God's Answer

God's love for us _____ all of our sins and _____ all of our fears. He clothes us with a robe of Christ's _____.

And the Lord said to Satan, "I, the Lord, reject your accusations, Satan.... "Take off his filthy clothes".... "See, I have taken away your sins, and now I am giving you these fine new clothes."

from Zechariah 3:1-5 (NLT)

Satan's defeat is already _____ – God is already victorious and Satan has no **real** power over us...unless we lose sight of the _____.

Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven... "It has come at last – salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth – the one who accuses them before our God day and night. And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die. But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time."

from Revelation 12:7-12 (NLT)

When we lose sight of the _____ Jesus won for us on the Cross, then our faith faces the _____ Satan can bring.

So What's Our Plan of Action?

_____ is an example of a "Cross-eyed" man who faced the accuser with _____ – even before the birth of Jesus!

After having lost the battle with his own evil desires of covetousness, lust, pride and even murder, David faced his battle with:

- Contrition instead of Pride
- Trust instead of Fear
- Truth instead of Lies
- Power and Forgiveness instead of Weakness and Guilt
- Obedience instead of Hopelessness
- Faith instead of Failure

David's Prayer After Moral Failure and Murder

Have mercy on me, O God, because of Your unfailing love. Because of Your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.

Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night.

Against You, and You alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in Your sight. You will be proved right in what You say, and Your judgment against me is just.

For I was born a sinner — yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.

Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; You have broken me — now let me rejoice.

Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from Your presence, and don't take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and make me willing to obey You.

Psalm 51:1-12 (NLT)

When we face the accusations of Satan, we can follow David's pattern and find _____ with God and _____ to overcome our accuser Satan –

A Christian **F.E.A.R.S.** when facing Satan the accuser, the

_____ he places in our lives, the dehumanizing, ugly and demeaning _____ from our past sins, and the _____ he portrays of our future in heaven.

F _____ the reality of the situation, not what you want the situation to be – nor how Satan describes it. Listen to what the Word of God says about you. Face Satan with the truth of God's love for you in Jesus Christ.

E _____ your relationship with God in prayer and ask for His strength to stand against Satan's attacks of temptation, guilt, remembrances of past failures and fear and uncertainty of our future life and life eternal.

A _____ your weakness, sin and failures – and God's love for you in Christ Jesus.

R _____ yourself of God's grace – and Satan's end – and Jesus' promise of life eternal. You are a redeemed child of the heavenly Father, baptized into His name most holy and sealed with His Spirit.

S _____ yourself for the battle by seeking the comfort and companionship of God's Word and Sacraments, of other Christians in worship and your Life Group, and an accountability partner or sponsor.

Suggestion: Covenant Eyes and Lion Browser

Martin Luther's Advice

"By faith in Christ a person may gain such sure and sound comfort, that he need not fear the devil, sin, death, or any evil. "Sir Devil," he may say, "I am not afraid of you. I have a Friend whose name is Jesus Christ, in whom I believe. He has abolished the Law, condemned sin, vanquished death, and destroyed hell for me. He is bigger than you, Satan. He has licked you, and holds you down. You cannot hurt me." This is the faith that overcomes the devil."

Martin Luther, Commentary on Galatians