

How to Resist When People Tempt You **Psalm 119:113-120**

Introduction

Sometimes, as we seek to bring the gospel to people, we will meet people who are not interested in the gospel, and who want to draw us into sin.

And sometimes we find ourselves being tempted to join them in sin

So what can we do at those times when we are being tempted by people?

In Psalm 119:113–120 The author is dealing with people who are double-minded. Since they are also described as evildoers (115), that probably means they put on a spiritual front some times, but love to pursue sin at other times.

In these verses the psalmist gives us four steps for how to resist when people tempt us –

First, he sees all that he has in God and his word. (vv. 113-114)

The author hates the double-minded, which means that while he deeply cares about them and their eternity, he hates the way they tempt him to sin

So he hates how they tempt him to sin, but he loves God's law Why?

It's because God is a hiding place and shield protecting him from those things which could destroy his everlasting joy in God.

When we see that God protects us so we can have joy in him forever, and that turning from God would risk our joy in him forever, we will hate how they tempt us, and love God's word.

Second, he makes a clean break from these tempters. (v. 115)

If we have friends who are drawing us into sin, then something needs to be done

Maybe we can share with them our love for Christ, and how he calls us not to sin (we must be careful to do this humbly, and not become proud or judgmental).

But if our friends don't want to hang out with us in non—sinful settings, then we will need to make a clean break from them.

Third, he asks God to hold him up. (vv.116-117)

Every temptation is like a 1000-pound chain being draped over our shoulders, which will pull us down away from God toward sin.

So we should not try to overcome the sin by ourselves; instead, we should ask God for help.

When we ask him for help, and pray earnestly over God's word, he will help us every time.

Fourth, he lets the truth of God's judgment strengthen his resolve. (vv.118-120)

Everyone who trusts Christ can be fully assured that he will never face God's judgment.

But if we are turning to sin, then we are not trusting Christ, and have no basis for this assurance.

So the author lets the truth of God's judgment motivate him to not turn to sin.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Do you now, or have you in the past, had a group of people who were inviting you to join them in sin? What did you end up doing? What did you learn from this?

Do you agree that it's possible to love someone and care deeply about their eternity, while at the same time hating how they tempt you to sin? Why or why not?

Does it make sense that God is our hiding place and shield protecting us from everything that could destroy our joy in him? Does pondering that make you love God and his word, and hate anything that would tempt you away from him? Why or why not?

If we are going to make a clean break from those tempting us, why is it so crucial that we do this humbly, not judgmentally, and not feeling like we are better than them?

When you are tempted to sin, is your first response to try to lift the thousand pound chain off by yourself, or is your first response to ask God for help? Do you agree that it's crucial to ask God first?

Is it really possible for believers to fear the possibility of God's judgment, and at the same time be fully assured that because they are trusting Christ they will not face God's judgment?

Do you agree that if someone is turning from Christ and willingly pursuing sin that they cannot be assured that they are saved and will avoid God's judgment?

What was God stirring in your heart through this passage? What is he calling you to do?

