

# FACING TEMPTATION

Matthew 18:7-9

# Temptation

- a strong urge or desire to have or do something
- something that causes a strong urge or desire to have or do something and especially something that is bad, wrong, or unwise

## **2 Aspects of Temptation:**

The trap, enticement, “stumbling block”

The desire, the “want”

# Matthew 18:7-9

<sup>7</sup> “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup> And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.

# Matthew 18:7-9

<sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

# Drastic Measures

And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away.... (v8) And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. (v9)

Don't tolerate sin in your life.

Do whatever it takes to Remove the "Traps."

# Sin's Consequences

- ❑ Entering Life vs being thrown into the eternal fire. (Mat 18:8,9)
- ❑ Sowing to the Flesh or to the Spirit (Gal 6:7-8)
- ❑ Loss of Fellowship/Intimacy with God (1 John 1:6-7)

# Heart Transplant

We can't address temptation without addressing our inner desires.

James 1:14–15<sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is **lured and enticed by his own desire.** <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

# Heart Transplant

John 3:3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



# Practical Steps

- Be aware of the “traps” in your life.  
Remove all you can.
- Spiritual Disciplines – Heart Transformation
  - ▣ Silence & Solitude
  - ▣ Scripture: Psalm 119:11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
- Make Pursuing Christ Your Target.