

Doctrine of the Cycle of Sin

James 1:14

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

1. There is a cycle to sin set forth in *Scripture* with predictable results.
2. The cycle begins when a particular lust pattern is allowed to manifest itself.
3. The reason for allowing the expression of a particular lust is rooted in the will to power and the principle of pleasure.
4. For the heart that is born of God there is a measure of remorse after sin expresses itself for the Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, judgment and the world to come which might be missed.
5. The passing of time and distance between an expression of sin and the moral response allows for the conscience to be either silenced or placated.
6. The shame and guilt and abhorrence of sin's expression is forgotten much like the pain a woman bears in childbirth so that she is willing to endure the ordeal again.
7. Because of the salving of the conscience there is freedom for temptation to entice the soul again with success with the illusion of pleasure. Herein is the cycle of sin: lust, sin, death.
8. Because there is an unwillingness to speak the truth there is also freedom for temptation to find a stronghold in the soul.
9. The truth that is not spoken is how eagerly the heart seeks out sin. Individuals speak of struggling with sin but that is not true.
10. Individuals might speak of struggling with the results of sin such as the shame and a guilt and remorse but once a decision is made to sin the struggle ends and sin itself is eagerly embraced.
11. Only by acknowledging the eagerness to do evil is there any hope for the horror of sin to be glimpsed in the moment of temptation for then the self image is changed from being a victim to being responsible and a willing participant in that which put Christ on the cross.
12. The desire to change and be fundamentally and forever different does not come primarily from the negative emotions associated with sin's punishment. These emotions are simple the consequences of living in a moral universe.

13. The only power in the universe that can change a person is God who does take pity upon a soul saturated in sin to say, *“Live.”* In grace God can send the gospel of redeeming grace and supernaturally impart its saving effects to the soul.
14. Realizing one’s helpless and hopeless condition apart from divine intervention the heart can then pray with humility saying, *“God be merciful to me the sinner.” “Lord, the leopard cannot change its spots and I cannot change my nature. But you can change me. Make me willing in the day of salvation. Change me. Convert me lest I die.”*
15. It may be that God will be pleased to answer such a prayer based upon an honest understanding of how desperate the soul is because of the strength of sin.
16. If God is pleased to save the soul then He will implant a new nature into the heart so that it can be said, *“We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not ; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not” (1 John 5:18).*
17. Once a person is truly converted then the promises of God can be appropriated in order to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.
 - *2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
18. The promises of God are to be embedded in the heart.
 - *Isaiah 59:19 ...When the enemy shall come in like a flood , the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*
 - *John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil [one].*
 - *Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*
 - *1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
 - *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - *1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*