



#nofilter Whispers

#npnofilter

Week 3
3 of 4

May 27, 2018

Bottom Line: Temptation is to meet legitimate needs in illegitimate ways.

Icebreaker: Go around the group and have each person complete these sentences: 1) If I was doing really great on a diet, the thing that would most tempt me to fall off the wagon is . . .; 2) If I was staying on a budget faithfully, working toward a great goal, what would most likely get me \$50 off track?

Key Verse: *This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.* Hebrews 4:15-16

Though God loves us deeply, His love doesn't keep trials and temptation from us. Sometimes, for our good, His love will lead us into challenges where we have to choose to trust His wisdom instead of our own. We shouldn't be surprised, because when Jesus walked this earth as a man, He was tempted in the same three areas we are: to provide for ourselves, to prove ourselves, and to please ourselves. These temptations are the ones that fuel every temptation we have. Jesus understands. Jesus not only understands the temptations, He understands how to beat the temptation because He endured the temptation and never sinned.

That doesn't make Him a distant idol whose performance is to be admired but impossible to emulate or learn from. The experience of Jesus gives Him understanding of what we go through; He has empathy for us. But the greatest part is that He is able and willing to give us what we need to successfully navigate the temptations we face without sin. We have to recognize that we can trust Him, then confidently and boldly come to Him expecting Him to give us just what He knows we need just when we need it.

Mercy is what I don't merit or deserve but I get it anyway. Grace is the free and unmerited favor of God. That is what I will receive when I don't attempt to meet my needs in illegitimate ways, but I boldly come to God.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

"There is always a relationship between our temptation and our confidence in God." Discuss.

"All of us who are loved and called by God are led to challenging places where we are tempted."

The temptations are to . . .

Provide for myself: Meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way.

Example:

Prove myself: Leverage God for my own end.

Example:

Please myself: Do the right thing in the wrong way.

Example:

"Winning over temptation is not just about self-control, it's about the insight that Jesus didn't just come to die for our sins but to free us from the power of sin." Discuss.

LOOK IT OVER >>>

"Whatever the temptation is, God understands it because God is the one who created the hunger in the first place." How does that motivate you to honor your needs and honor God with them?

"The temptation to leverage God for ourselves personally often feels right because it feels like what God would want and what would help the cause. The key to overcoming this is to ask how I can cooperate with God and not try to manipulate Him." Agree/Disagree

"Because we have the drive to please ourselves, there will come a time when the opportunity to move forward for something really good will come to us. We will be tempted to try to get there quicker by compromising our values and taking a shortcut." Have you ever seen this or done it? What were the results?

"Free cheese is always available in mouse traps." How does this apply to our three basic temptations?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Ask yourself and share: Which temptation do I lean toward and why? To provide for, prove, or please myself?
- 2) Commit to read the Doctrinal Affirmation every day.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Temptation is to meet legitimate needs in illegitimate ways.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Tuesday: Matthew 4:3-4

Wednesday: Matthew 4:5-7

Thursday: Matthew 4:8-10

Friday: Matthew 4:11

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)