



— OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
AND OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST —

The Week of August 1, 2021

Who's Number One?

Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **I worship:** (Psalm 95:1-7) Because of who He is and what he has done, I worship God individually each day and corporately with my church family as often as they assemble.
- **Identity:** (John 1:12) I have worth and value because I am made in God's image and am His child. As His child, I live my life to bring glory to God and to serve His purposes.
- **About Salvation:** (Ephesians 2:1-10) Salvation is an act of God's grace, not of our works. God offers redemption of anyone who accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior. They become new persons in Christ, have their sins forgiven by God, are set apart to live for God's purposes and anticipate eternity in heaven with God.





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Intro Questions

- What is something you are very proud of: possession, accomplishment, or position?
- When is a time you let your ego get the better of you?
- Power and arrogance often go hand in hand, how have you seen it destroy leadership?





— OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
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Who are trying to please?

Read Matthew 4:8–11

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. And he said to him, “I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me.”

Then Jesus told him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.

- Does Satan have the authority to offer Jesus the world?
- In the first two temptations Jesus rebukes Satan, but He does not in this one. Why do you think this is the case?





— OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
AND OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST —

Read Ephesians 1:20–23

He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens— far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

Read 1 Peter 3:22

...who (Jesus) has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.





— OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
AND OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST —

- What is Jesus's position following His crucifixion and resurrection?
- What was Satan offering Him in the Matthew passage above?
- Why was Satan's offering tempting?
- How would this have short-circuited God's plan? What would this mean to the world? What would it mean to you?
- How have you been tempted to take a shortcut and avoid God's plan for you?

Read this quote from Pastor David:

"Where there is no gospel, something else will fill the void—therapy, consumerism, racial resentment, utopian politics, crazy conspiracy theories of the Left, crazy conspiracy theories of the Right; anything will do. Where there is something other than Christ preached, there is no freedom."





— OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
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There may be shouts of affirmation or silently nodding heads. There may be left-wing politics or right-wing politics. The devil doesn't care if you worship at the altar of family values or of social justice as long as you're not worshipping at the foot of the cross."

- What have you seen fill this void in our culture and world today? What about in your life?





— OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
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Read Proverbs 18:12

Before his downfall a person's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

Read Matthew 27:38–40

Then two criminals were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. Those who passed by were yelling insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!"

- Even on the cross Satan was still tempting Jesus. How did Jesus show humility in His response?





— OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
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Read Romans 8:31–39

What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: Because of you we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor





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AND OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST —

angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- How much does God want the best for us? How far was He willing to go to bring us into His family?
- Who are we in Christ? What do we have in Christ?
- What things cause us to rob ourselves of the abundant life God has for us?





— OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
AND OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST —

Read 1 Corinthians 10:12–13

So, whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall. No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to bear it.

- How can we better equip ourselves to avoid temptation?
- Share a time in your life where God provided a way out of temptation for you. Did you take it? What was the result?
- How do we see/hear/know the way that God has provided out of temptation for us?





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Next Steps

[Click here for a link to a playlist of our staff's favorite worship songs!](#)

How to be victorious over temptation:

- Recognize your own pridefulness. Self-deceit is an easy trap that the Bible can help you escape. (Heb. 4:12)
- Remember who you are in Christ. You are a child of God, invited to speak to your Father in prayer. (Matt. 6:9-13)
- Invite a believing brother or sister in Christ inside your life and allow them to walk with you as you face temptation. (1 John 1:7-9)
- Take your desires very seriously, remain aware of your temptations. You can't fight very well against what you underestimate. (1 Peter 5:8)





— OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
AND OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST —

- Remember you are not alone. We walk with the Spirit of God who makes escape possible. (1 Cor. 10:13)
- Don't demand your way in your little corner of the world. Decide now that you're not going to be controlling, manipulative or defensive. (Phil. 2:3-4)
- Make the whole gospel central to your life. Recognize that your neighbor is made in the image of God no matter the color of their skin or where they are from and love them in the love of Christ. Do all of these things while embracing the gospel of Jesus Christ without worry about what label might be applied to you. (1 Cor. 2:1-3)
- Worship leads to humility. As we worship God, it leads us to be more empathetic toward others. (Matt. 22:37-40)





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Further Study

Take a look at these stories and look for the themes listed. What do these teach us about the dangers of temptation and how to stand firm?

- Jacob & Esau- giving up long-term goals for short-term gain
- Noah, Joshua & Jericho- reward of obedience
- Jonah- dangers of pride
- Esther- how did her identity help her stand strong?

Enjoying Conversation Guides?

Want to be a part?

Come join the Writer's Team,

Wednesday Nights at 7:45pm in Room 4.

Email Pastor Doug Bedgood if you'd like more info, dbedgood@icelebration.org.

