

No Nonsense Christianity (part 4) — Studies in the book of James

Read James 1:12-18.

Other Scriptures: 1 Cor. 10:12-13; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 5:8; Mk 14:38; Eph. 6:10-12; 2 Cor. 2:11.

1. Can you sympathise with Oscar Wilde who said “I can resist anything except temptation”?
2. What do you think are the greatest temptations for Christians today?
3. What important truths are taught in James 1:13?
4. Read Gen. 3:12-13. How did Adam respond when challenged by God? Is this reaction something that we see sometimes in ourselves and in others? Why is the “blame game” so destructive to ourselves and others?
5. A survey was recently conducted by Christianity magazine which found that:
 - 42% of practising Christians in the UK say they have a 'porn addiction' and over 50% admit viewing adult content online on a monthly basis.
 - 10% Christian men say they have paid for sex
 - 75% Christian men view pornography on a monthly or less regular basis
 - 30% Church leaders access porn on the Internet more than once a month

Do these statistics surprise you?

6. Access to pornography these days is easy, especially when compared to before the advent of the world-wide-web. Is the church (our church?) doing enough to combat this problem? What more could be done to help those who succumb to temptation?
7. Why is it so important for parents not to abdicate responsibility to their children? In which ways might they abdicate responsibility? What safeguards can be used to protect our children?
8. “What you flirt with, you will fall for!” Thoughts?
9. When tempted, why is it so important to focus our thoughts on the positive? (*This is what James does in v17. See also Phil. 4:8*)
10. What point was Steve making when he offered “Exodus” and “Numbers” as two great strategies to temptation? Remember the three-second rule!
11. What was Martin Luther’s point, when he said: “We cannot keep the birds from flying over us, but we can keep them from making a nest in our hair”?
12. Please take some time to pray for one another as you see appropriate.