

Running Free August 23+24 2008

Christ ran His race on earth with passion, purpose and perseverance. So can we! We are Christ's Olympians with a "grace race" to run for His glory. Now is our time to run in the sector of society He has anointed us for. His Word tells us how to do it best! Hebrews 12:1-3

Grace Runners:

- 1) **Accept** their call to run in their arena for His glory
 - 2) Let those who have run before them and who are now watching them **inspire** them in their run
 - 3) Strip off every **weight** that slows them down—False Beliefs, Fear, Disobedience, Shame and Guilt, Hurt and Discouragement, Relational Burdens/ Conflicts
- You must daily **come** to Him to run for Him! Matthew 11:28-30

This week :

- 4) Strip off every **sin** that so easily trips them up or so easily entangles them.

All of us have a sin or sins that we are especially vulnerable to. Knowing what they are and getting victory over them is critical to running as Christ's Olympian.

What is sin?

Missing the mark – falling short of the glory of God as revealed in Christ. Romans 3:23

Falling short of being and acting like Jesus.

Transgression - Lapse or deviation from the truth—Knowing the right thing to do and not doing it. James 4:17

What sin easily entangles you?

1) Verbal Sin

Matthew 15:11, James 1:26, Ephesians 4:29; 5:4 - *Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them...*

Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.

2) Internal Sin Matthew 15:17-20; 5:27-30

3) Behavioral Sin Ephesians 4:26-27; 5:3-5

4) Relational Sin Exodus 20:3-5, Exodus 20:12, 15, 16, Ephesians 5:33; 6:5

Circle the sin or sins that easily entangles you:

Idolatry, Lust, Swearing, Slander, Abusive speech, Stealing, Adultery, Outburst of Anger, Bitterness, Selfishness, Coveting, Greed, Laziness, Disobedience, Alcohol or Drug Abuse, Sexual Immorality, Incest, Unthankfulness, Judging Others, Self-righteousness, Pride, Rebellion, Jealousy, Defrauding, Murder, Hypocrisy, Rape, Gossip, Gluttony, Witchcraft, Dividing God's People, Homosexuality, Blasphemy

Why must you deal with this entangling sin?

- 1) It **demoralizes** you and makes you feel like a hypocrite.
- 2) It undermines your **credibility** as Christ's Olympian
- 3) It can cause a brother or sister in Christ to **stumble**
- 4) It **displays** what Christ can do in you
- 5) It gives you **confidence** to share Christ with others

How do you get free from a sin that easily trips you up?

- 1) **Admit** your vulnerability to that sin to God and other safe believers and together ask God why you are so vulnerable to this sin. James 5:16, 1 Corinthians 10:13.

God has a successful strategy for victory over this sin.

- 2) **Believe** in and confess Christ's victory over even this sin in your life and don't focus on your past failures. Romans 6:1-14

Baptism symbolizes your death to sin and aliveness in Christ. You can still sin but you don't have to. Sin no longer is your master. You can master it through Christ.

- 3) **Commit** to doing whatever it takes to strip this sin off your "grace run".

2 Timothy 2:22, 1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee from what you don't want to be and pursue aggressively the person you want to become for His glory. He will help you run free! Jude 1:24

Discussion Questions:

1. Would you share a victory over a sin Christ has given you? What sin trips you up most easily now? Why?
2. Review why you must deal with entangling sin. Which reason motivates you the most.
3. Talk through the three ways to overcome sin. Which step do you need to take?