

Victory over Sin

Lesson 6: Sins of False Beliefs

Identifying False Beliefs

In this lesson, you first define the sins of false beliefs below. Read the list and write the definitions of words you don't know. Then, circle or write down the sins that you see in your life right now and in your past. Look up the scriptures beside the sins that you think will be the hardest for you to change and the hardest for you to talk about. In your journal, write about how you see these sins in your life.

Idolatry (1 Corinthians 5:11-13, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Revelation 21:8, 22:15)

worshipping anything or anyone other than God, his Son, and his Holy Spirit (Revelation 19:9-10, John 14:6)	following traditions or philosophies that do not honor God and his Word (Colossians 2:8)
putting faith in anything or anyone other than God, his Son, and his Holy Spirit (Colossians 2:18)	giving power to anything or anyone other than God, his Son, and his Holy Spirit, including statues or idols
valuing anything or anyone above God, his Son, and his Holy Spirit (Romans 1:21-26)	allowing anything or anyone to keep us away from Jesus's teachings or worshipping the Lord (i.e. job, hobby, relationship, fear of people)
worshipping objects or images (Exodus 20:4-5a)	

Witchcraft (Revelation 9:21, 21:8, 22:15; Deuteronomy 18:10-12)

<p>sorcery, wizardry (Acts 19:19)</p> <p>astrology (faith in the stars or cosmos)</p> <p>horoscopes</p> <p>worshipping Satan and his demons</p> <p>associating with any spiritual realm other than God's realm in the Bible</p> <p>faith in supernatural forces or unexplained powers not associated with God</p> <p>transcendental meditation</p> <p>some beliefs in yoga, Tai Chi, & Asian Arts</p> <p>spiritual energy channeling: "calling in" or controlling energy through the mind</p> <p>warding off evil spirits with anything other than the name of Jesus and the power of his Spirit (Luke 9)</p>	<p>communication with the dead</p> <p>Day of the Dead practices^{***}</p> <p>magic, magic spells, magic arts</p> <p>Santeria</p> <p>mediums and fortune telling</p> <p>Ouji boards</p> <p>good luck charms, objects, or pictures</p> <p>tarot cards and palm reading</p> <p>signs and omens not associated with God</p> <p>faith in fate and luck</p> <p>using the body's energy or other objects for the purposes of divination* (1 Samuel 15:23)¹</p>
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* Divination is "seeking hidden knowledge through supernatural means"² outside of Biblical means, i.e. prayers, gifts of the Spirit, etc.

** Energy is a scientifically approved concept. What we spiritually believe about energy and how we interact with energy, though, is important to consider.

*** Some Christ followers do not accept the practices of Halloween because of its association with Day of the Dead.

Other False Beliefs

having false beliefs about the nature, love, or purity of God
 trusting in people for truth instead of trusting God and his Word
 believing that God is not in control over our situations or that he will help us in our troubles

having false beliefs about ourselves – not believing the truth about ourselves (i.e. about our sin or about God’s love for us)
 believing that we must control our situations, rather than depending on God for his help

Going Deeper

In your journal, answer the Go Deeper questions below. Sometimes working through bad memories or tough times in our past helps us to see ways we have sinned and understand more about why we sin. Talk through these situations with a Christian friend, and talk about what love would look like instead. Pray together over these sins. Ask Jesus for his help and forgiveness.

Sins of False Beliefs

1. Is there anyone or anything that keeps you from worshipping God, his Son, or his Holy Spirit?
2. Is there anyone or anything that keeps you from following Jesus’s teachings?
3. Do you have any religious beliefs apart from the Bible? Explain.
4. Do you believe that God deeply loves you and is always working for your good? In what ways can you grow in your trust in his care for your life?
5. Do you see yourself the way God sees you? In what ways can you grow in having a healthy view of yourself that reflects God’s deep love for you?
6. In your life, how did you develop these beliefs? Why have you held on to these beliefs?
7. Are you unsure if some of your religious beliefs are right? If you are unsure, then find verses in the Bible to discover what is true.
8. Do see any of your beliefs, religious practices, or actions listed in the Sins of False Beliefs?
9. In the areas you discussed, what would loving God, others, or yourself look like?

Making Decisions

Study II Corinthians 7:10-11 and I Corinthians 13:4-8. What does Jesus want you to do about the sins in your life? What do you want to do? Talk about any decisions that you’ve made from this study.

This Week:

1. Take some time to read a few verses from two handouts: The Promises of God and My Identity in Christ. These handouts are found at <https://www.connectthenations.com/transform>.
2. Share what you wrote with your friend and ask them to share what they wrote with you as well. End the time with praying one for another.
3. Review the questions from the Introduction. If you wish to be baptized, please let us or a Christian friend know. If you wish to join or start an accountability group, please contact us at <https://www.connectthenations.com/contact-us>.