

Today's Message: The War Within

Series: Unrest

Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023

Big Ideas: We Can Win The War That Wages Within If We Refuse To Be Deceived By Flesh.

Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds." (Jeremiah 17:5–10 ESV selected verses.)

1. Israel lost their land because they refused to put a _____ on the flesh.

Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. (1 Corinthians 10:6)

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. (1 Peter 2:11)

2. The weapon used in the fight for the heart is the _____ of our heart.

All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. (Ephesians 2:3)

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by *his own desire*. Then *desire* when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth *death*. (James 1:14–15 ESV)

3. We lose the war within when we are lured, enticed, and destroyed by our _____ desires.

4. We can win the war that wages if we _____ our desires by the Spirit.

a. Concentration.

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. (Romans 8:5–8)

b. Crucifixion.

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:24)

c. Change what you treasure.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Luke 12:34)

d. Control what you pursue.

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? (Matthew 16:26)