

Radical Amputation



Destructive behaviors typically follow a pattern of temptation that can be traced. Clearly, Jesus is not asking us to literally “cut-off” parts of our body for this would not actually solve the problem of the heart and its desires. This text reveals that you must avoid patterns that make it easy for you to give into sin and temptation. If you are serious about sin you must be willing to “amputate” anything that makes it easy to give in.

Pray: Ask God to soften your heart by His Spirit so that you may grow and change for His glory alone.

Scripture: Read Matthew 18:7-9, Romans 13:14

Instructions: Walk through the questions

Identification

1. **Alone:** *You're most tempted to give into sin when you're Alone*

- What places/locations do you find yourself alone and tempted?

- What time(s) do you find yourself alone and tempted?

2. **Available:** *You're most tempted to give into sin when it is Available*

- What are you using to gain access to this temptation?

- How are you getting access to it?

3. **Appetite:** *You're most tempted to give into sin when you Desire it.*

- What does this sin give you in the duration you give into it? Peace? Pleasure? Power? *Others...?*

- What is so sinfully attractive about this temptation?

Amputation

- **The Short Battle:** This involves immediately cutting off access to temptation and sin resolving to do **whatever** it takes to make “no provision for the flesh” (Romans 13:14). *The short battle does not change your heart’s desires.*
- **The Long Battle:** This involves changing the heart’s desires that are producing the behavior through repentance/forgiveness. *If you change your desires 1 and 2 may not be a factor because you have replaced the sinful desire with a righteous one.*

Note: You may want to involve a biblical counselor or an accountability partner for the following.

1. **Alone:** Make a temporary battle plan to avoid secrecy
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2. **Available:** Make a temporary plan to avoid accessibility
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3. **Appetite:** Identify the desires/idolatry that produces the temptation.
 - What do I need to repent of that is not only concerned with the behavior?
 - Example: “Lord forgive me finding pleasure in _____ rather than you.

 - What should I now “put on” after repenting and receiving forgiveness?
 - Example: “Lord help me to find pleasure in you alone, not this sin”

