



the Battle

WEEK THREE

03.24.24

WORLD

Introduction

There's a battle being fought for you. It's happening right now. What kind of battle are we talking about? A spiritual one - and sometimes we don't even know we're in it. This may sound a little overdramatic, but it's a battle you need to fight because the stakes are high. During this series, we'll learn all about fighting and winning the battle for your soul together. In week three, Pastor Chip taught us about living in a sinful society and how we can resist temptation through life in the church.

Discussion

1. Pastor Chip helped us define "society" as a system that's anti-God and where sin gets normalized. Have you found this to be true in the world around you? Provide some examples. Is this definition of society new for you? Does it create any tensions for you? Why or why not?

2. There are two parts of temptation from the world:

- Rebel or seize autonomy from God; live your life apart from him.
- Redefine good and evil based on the voice in your head and the disordered desires of your heart.

Take a deep breath and step into some vulnerability in your group with the following exercise:

- Identify and share one way you're consistently tempted by the world.
- Reread the two parts of temptation, then apply them to the temptation you shared. See if you can dig below the surface to what your heart is wrestling with.
- Process and/or share how you see those two parts of temptation in your example.

3. In light of the temptation you shared in the previous question, talk about what you think you need from life in the church to resist that temptation.

- *Deep relational connectedness* | Through vulnerability, authenticity, and interdependency.
- *A community of holiness* | Being obedient to God's desires and commands together.
- *A community of rhythms* | Practicing spiritual disciplines

4. **Read Ephesians 6:12.** While the world is our spiritual enemy, the people of the world are not. Are you able to separate those two categories easily? Why or why not? Regardless, what about this truth is particularly challenging for you?

5. **Read Matthew 28:16-20.** Rather than separating ourselves from the world, we are sent by God to love and disciple those in it. Evaluate your engagement with the world right now. Are you separating yourself from the world or are you engaging in a way that's allowing people to see Jesus' love in and through you?

- Which of these do you gravitate toward naturally? Why?
- What gets in the way of you engaging with the world as a believer in Jesus?
- What gets lost if we choose to live Christian lives separate from the rest of the world?

Application

- **Grow in connection.** We need real community for encouragement and accountability. Remember, isolation leads to devastation.
- **Grow in holiness.** Learn to live in obedience to God's commands because you trust his plan and love for you (and the world). This is a grace-filled process. One consistent step of obedience at a time.
- **Grow in rhythms.** Practice, practice, practice. Seek out solitude, rest, time in God's Word and in prayer to keep yourself centered and present with the Holy Spirit.
- **Consider purchasing and reading [Live No Lies](#).** This book by John Mark Comer is the basis for this series and provides a deep dive and additional synthesis on the topics we'll cover each week.