**Characteristics of life-dominating sins**

1. We practice a sin even though we have tried \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to stop (Rom 6:1-2, 6-7, 11-13).
2. We practice a sin and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others or circumstances for our failure to stop (Ez 18:4, 20; Mark 7:20-23; Rom 14:12; 2 Cor 5:10).
3. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that what we are doing is sin (1 Pet 1:16; 1 John 1:8, 10).
4. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our self that we are not enslaved to a sin and “can stop at any time,” even though we continue in this sin (John 8:34; 2 Tim 2:22; James 2:10, 4:17; 1 John 3:3).
5. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a sin even though any pleasure or satisfaction to our self is short-lived while the harm to our self and others is considerable and long term (Prov 26:11; 2 Pet 2:22; Ps 85:8).
6. We seek to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our sin (Ps 32:1-5)
7. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or slander the very people who are seeking to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to the Lord and others (Prov 9:8, 16:28).
8. We still commit this sin although we know that it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ in our life and is a stumbling block to others (Matt 5:16; Rom 14:13; 1 Pet 2:11-12, 24).
9. We repeatedly commit this sin while knowing that this does not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord nor bring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God (1 Cor 10:31; 2 Cor 5:9; Col 1:10).
10. As we can see, a life-dominating sin is very much a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ issue (Ex 20:3; Deut 6:5, 10:12; 2 Kings 17:35; Matt 13:45-46; Luke 10:27; Phil 3:8)

**Biblical** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **of life-dominating sins**

God sometimes uses labels that describe a person with a certain kind of lifestyle. God gives these labels not upon a person who commits these acts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but to those whose whole life is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by these acts. There is an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pattern of sin.

Example: 1 Cor 6:9-10 “Or do you not know that the *unrighteous* shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither *fornicators*, nor *idolaters*, nor *adulterers*, nor *effeminate*, nor *homosexuals*, nor *thieves*, nor the *covetous*, nor *drunkards*, nor *revilers*, nor *swindlers*, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you…”

Figure 1 Sin Cycle to be PUT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Figure 2 Sin Cycle to be PUT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **of life-dominating sins**

1. We are held \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God for all our wants, thoughts, speech and behavior. Genetic predispositions, personalities or “addictions” do not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. We become a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to whatever \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us (Rom 6:16-18).
3. Life-dominating sins affect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ area of our life. They are rarely relegated to one particular area.
4. We will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our salvation (1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Pet 1:7; 2 Pet 1:10-11).
5. God does not assure us that He will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our prayers (Ps 66:18; Prov 15:29, 28:9; 1 Pet 3:12).
6. We will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spiritual as well as physical \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 32:3-5, 38:1-10, 51:3; 1 Cor 5:3-5, 11:28-30; Col 3:25; Heb 12:5-11).
7. We will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our salvation (Ps 51:8-12; 1 John 1:4).
8. We will become increasingly more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and life will become more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Prov 1:24-32; 13:15, 21a; 28:13-14).
9. We place our self under the corrective \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 12:5-11), and the sternness of the discipline to restore us to the Lord and others will increase (Matt 18:15-20).
10. We, through our own deeds, will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with those in the body of Christ (1 Cor 5:9-11; 2 Thess 3:11-15).
11. We remain in spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because we are merely a hearer of the Word and not a doer (James 1:22-24), and we cannot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ clearly between good and evil (Heb 5:14).
12. We become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ witnesses for Christ and the gospel (Rom 6:19; Eph 4:22; 1 Cor 9:27).
13. We may realize we are not a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **life-dominating sins**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the situation
* We are often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to life-dominating sins
* Ask good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ questions
* How long has this been going on
* Interview people closest to you
* Keep weekly journals of what you fear, get angry about, etc.
* Record of your daily schedule to see how you really spend your time
* Record of how you spend your money
* Record of your daily calorie intake
* Make lists like the ways in which you desire to control everything at home or the thoughts you say to yourself when you are tempted in a particular area (e.g., “I can handle this.”)
* Ask good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ questions
* Most often, all areas are affected
* A focus on one sin or problem is most often insufficient
* Ask, “How have all your relationships been effected by your drinking?”
* Ask, “How has your lack of self–control shown up in other areas of your life?”
* Ask, “How has your pattern of deceit affected your finances?”
* Ask, “What physical issues have been brought about by your use of drugs?”
* Ask, “How has your desire to *get* (characteristic of idol worship) versus your desire to *give* affected your view of church and ministry?
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the information \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* What idols have emerged?
* What or who are you worshipping?
* What do you want more than glorifying God?
* What is the desired payoff by indulging in that sin?
* Who is behind sin’s domination of you?
1. Declare \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and show no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to sinful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 9:24-27)
* Know your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (Rom 6:4; 2 Cor 5:17)
* Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it. That would simply encourage the self-deceptive consequences of sin
* Confess it as sin against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 51)
* Look to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the One who shows grace and mercy to sinners
* Grow in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by knowing your God as He reveals Himself in Scripture
* Learn to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in obedience and glorifying God (Ps 1)
* Don’t rely on yourself but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with and be accountable to others (Gal 6:1; Heb 3:13, 10:24; 2 Pet 1:12-15)
* Pursue wisdom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Prov 2:1-5)
* Fight the temptations \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you (James 1:13-15)
* Don’t just avoid sin; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it (Deut 7:26; Ps 84:10, 101:3-4, 119:104; Prov 8:13; Rom 7:15; 1 Cor 13:6)
* Love God and others
1. Make \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plans for change
* Live as if you were at war … because you are! (Eph 6:11; James 4:7; 1 Pet 2:11, 5:8; 1 John 3:8, 10)
* Live objectively and not by your feelings (Jer 17:9; Prov 14:12; Gal 5:16-17)
* Be diligent (Ps 119:4; 2 Pet 1:5, 3:14; Prov 13:4, 21:5; Ecc 11:4; Gal 6:7-9)
* Identify the appropriate biblical practices (“put ons”) and do them (1 Tim 4:7)
* Get rid of all things that make it easy to commit a particular sin (Matt 18:8-9; Rom 13:14)
* Confess to others and engage in relationships for accountability
* Remain steadfast (Gal 6:9)
* Remember your goal to know Christ and make Him known to others

**Case Study of a Life-Dominating Sin**

**Step 1: *Assess the situation***

* I am 45 years old and since the 8th grade I have consistently looked at pornography
* There have been seasons where I viewed it a few hours everyday for a week and others when I might only look at it about 3 times a month
* I don’t really remember long periods of time when I didn’t look at pornography
* I have believed since I have decreased my time of viewing it in the last couple of years that I was actually free from this sin
* However, after writing down on paper how often I viewed pornography as far back as I could remember I realized that I have yet to free myself from this bondage
* This sin has affected the way I view members of the opposite sex
* It has only enhanced my desire to please myself
* It has caused me to view my intimacy with my spouse as something for getting rather than as something for giving
* I have idolized pornography, seeking it above God and demanding that it bring me pleasure when times are tough, when I am tired and when I am bored
* I have been worshiping my self, wanting to be excited and pleasured above glorifying God
* I have been expressing more of an allegiance to Satan than to God

**Step 2: *Declare war and show no mercy to sinful desires***

* There is no excuse for my sin, even though I have thought of many
* I am a child of God and I have been freed from the bondage of sin
* I have grievously sinned against God, having another god besides Him
* I am so thankful that my salvation is not determined by perfection but by God’s grace
* I am thankful for Christ’s righteousness being imputed to me
* By God’s grace I can make this right and seek what is ahead to live for Him by His strength
* I hate my sin and I do not ever want to do it again
* I want to pursue His wisdom and live according to His commands, bringing glory to His name, growing in my knowledge of Him, becoming more like Him and proclaiming Him to all
* I sincerely want to love God and others

**Step 3: *Make decisive and concrete plans for change***

* Immediately, I will no longer shop at the local grocery mart that carries pornographic magazines
* Today, I will cancel my cable subscription, including my internet
* I will put a filter or reporting software on my phone
* This week, I will contact the church to inquire about ways I can serve and minister in the church
* Tonight, I will confess my sin to my spouse and ask for help in this area
* This week, I will confess my sin to my close friends and ask them to keep me accountable in specific ways
* By Friday, I will create a reading plan to help me stay in the Scripture
* By Friday, I will begin memorizing passages of scripture that pertain to selfless living, holy living and my identity in Christ
* Today, I will begin praying daily for others and for my sanctification
* I will make specific plans for sharing the gospel with my immediate neighbors, family members and coworkers