

Deceptive Behavior

38. We are never to take advantage of another person's weaknesses in order to achieve our own _____ goals (Genesis 25:29-34; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1).

Reflection and Response

In what practical ways can we avoid exploiting others in order to achieve our own selfish goals? (See Luke 6:31.)

Spiritual Insensitivity

39. We should continually develop our _____ relationship with God, not allowing our hearts to gradually grow cold and insensitive toward our heavenly Father, our families and our fellow believers (Genesis 26:23-25; Hebrews 3:12-13; Principle 6 in Hebrews).

Reflection and Response

How can we keep the process of time and the influence of the world from blurring and even obliterating our most significant memories of God's grace and blessings?

Worldly Desires

40. We are to pursue _____, not allowing sinful desires to dominate and control our attitudes and actions (Genesis 26:34-35; Hebrews 12:14-16).

Reflection and Response

Since all of us—even as Christians—have the potential to allow sinful desires to take control of our lives, how can we guard against this human tendency?

Pure Motives

41. We are to faithfully imitate Christ's love for us in order to avoid _____ behavior in our relationships with one another (Genesis 27:1-4, 15-20; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6).

Reflection and Response

Since all of us have needs and our own legitimate interests, how can we keep our motives pure in our relationships with others? (Look carefully at Philippians 2:3-5.)

Making Proper Decisions

42. We should first and foremost make decisions to please God, not to ingratiate ourselves with others for purely _____ reasons (Genesis 28:6-9; 26:34-35; 27:46; Galatians 1:10).

Reflection and Response

When we can't please both God and people, what can we do to resolve this tension in the most Christ-like way possible? (See Romans 12:18; Acts 5:29.)

A Born-Again Experience

43. Even though we have been reared in a Christian family, we should make sure our relationship with God is _____ (Genesis 28:10-12, 14, 16-17; Review Principle 22 in Genesis; John 1:47, 48, 49, 50-51).

Reflection and Response

Why is it important to understand and believe that no one has ever been saved except by grace through faith and not by works? (See Romans 4:16-17; 5:1.)

Faith and Works

44. We are to test the _____ of our relationship with God by the good works that result (Genesis 28:18-22; Ephesians 2:8-9a; 2:10).

Reflection and Response

Why is giving material possessions to God listed as one of the first “good works” that should result in our lives when we are saved by grace through faith? (See Matthew 6:19-21).

Carnal Behaviors

45. Even when we become true believers, we should be on guard against old _____ of sinful behavior that tend to persist (Genesis 29:1, 13, 16-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Principle 7 in 1 Corinthians).

Reflection and Response

What are some of the specific reasons it’s easy for Christians to revert to old sin patterns in their lives?

Sin Patterns

46. When we sin against someone and do not seek forgiveness, we should not be surprised if someone sins against us in a _____ fashion (Genesis 29:21-30; John 8:44, 32; Ephesians 6:14).

Reflection and Response

Can you recall an experience when someone’s sin against you actually served as a verbal and visual reminder of what you had done to someone else?

NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLES

39. Principle 6 in Hebrews—Heart-Evaluation

If we profess to be Christ-followers, we should test the reality of our faith by honestly evaluating how we live.

43. Principle 22 in Genesis—Justified by Faith

No matter what our religious background, we must personalize our faith in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ.

45. Principle 7 in 1 Corinthians—Becoming Like Christ

As believers, we should become mature in Christ and follow His example in all of our relationships.