

**Wretched Worldview**

**Sanctification:  
Battling Subtle Sins**

**Essay Test Answer Key**

## Essay Test Answer Key

*These answers are not meant to be comprehensive, but to serve as a general guideline.*

1. In this DVD, there were many references to the gospel and many calls to remember the gospel. Why is it important for a Christian to remember the gospel after salvation, and what role does the gospel play in our sanctification?

**The gospel reminds us of who God is, who we are, and what God has done for us through His Son on the cross. Continually reminding ourselves of these facts help to keep our minds and hearts in the right place as we pursue holiness (sanctification). Our motivation to obey the Lord should come from love and gratitude for what He has done, not from a sense of earning something from Him or trying to appease Him. The gospel reminds us that Jesus earned it all for us and appeased the wrath of God on our behalf.**

2. Explain how the gospel speaks to every issue that was addressed in this DVD, and how remembering the gospel can help in your sanctification in these areas. Use Scripture as much as possible to support your answers. (The gospel was not specifically addressed in every segment of the DVD, but the student should be able to discern how the gospel can and should be applied in each area.)

***Student's answers should be similar to the following:***

**Pride & Humility: The gospel crushes pride because it tells us that we are wretched sinners. We are no better than anyone else, and rightfully bound for eternal hell apart from the amazing grace and mercy of God through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. This is why God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).**

**Self-Esteem and idolatry: The gospel tells us that, in ourselves, we are nothing but wretched sinners helpless to save ourselves and, apart from the grace of God in Christ Jesus, unwilling even to do so. Therefore, esteeming ourselves makes no sense! The gospel reminds us that we must only esteem the One who is perfect, holy, and made our salvation possible: Jesus Christ. Continually remembering who God is, who we are, and what God has done for us in Christ helps to evict our idols and keep King Jesus on the throne of our hearts.**

**Technology as an idol: Technology can be an idol when we use it for selfish reasons such as maintaining control over others, keeping our distance from others, and/or giving less time, energy, or love to others. (These were the reasons given in the DVD.) In the gospel, we see a God who cares deeply about us to the point of humbling Himself. He took on flesh, lived among us, and died for us. His love for us came at a great price. Because this is the kind of love He has lavished upon us, we should strive to love others (especially those in the household of faith) with the same**

selfless love. The gospel therefore reminds us to use our technology – and all the incredible innovations of our time – for the building up of the Body, not for our selfish ambitions.

Criticism or Encouragement

(Gospel-centered confrontation): **When confronting someone about their sin, the gospel tells us that both parties (the one confronting and the one being confronted) are sinners before God. It also reminds us that we are to show the same love, grace, and patience to each other as God has shown us in Christ.**

A Judgmental Heart: **No matter how much someone offends us or sins against us, the gospel reminds us that we too are sinners and that our sin put Jesus on the cross. Remembering we are fellow sinners, no better than the person offending us, can help us to extend grace and forgiveness - instead of a critical spirit or angry disposition.**

Receiving Criticism well: **Since the main reason we struggle with receiving criticism is pride, the best way to crush our pride is with the gospel! (See the response under Pride & Humility, above.) Whenever pride is the issue (which it often is, as it is at the root of most sin), the best thing to do is remember that we are each the chief of sinners, yet Christ died for us anyway. Focusing on the amazing grace God has shown us in His gospel will help to foster a humble and contrite spirit within us. We will be willing to be confronted on sin and eager to walk in increasing holiness before our Savior.**

Respectable Sins: **The gospel shows us God's intense hatred for ALL sin when He poured out His wrath on His Son on the cross. No sin is therefore more "respectable" than another. All sin condemns us to eternal punishment in hell. When we look at the cross and see the suffering Jesus went through on our behalf, it should move us to hate our sin more and be ever more grateful that He took all of it upon Himself and paid the penalty on our behalf.**

How Sin Masquerades as Good: **In this segment, it was mentioned that our sin grieves God (Ephesians 4:30). When we sin, the gospel assures us that we can find forgiveness for our sins in Christ Jesus, and be fully restored to a right relationship with God.**

Envy: **At the root of envy is the sin of idolatry and pride. The gospel confronts these sins by telling us we're bad. So bad, in fact, that the Son of God had to suffer a horrendous death to pay for our sins. What do we deserve? Death. What has God given us? Eternal life! Reflecting on this amazing truth causes us to magnify Christ in our lives and in our affections, and should serve to increase our desire for Him above all else.**

**Being Shy:** Being shy is not a sin in and of itself. God has created all personality types, and the local church body needs each type, including those who are shy. It can be a sin, however, when it is used as an excuse to avoid ministry or certain interactions with people, such as witnessing. Keeping in mind, however, that proper motivation for being obedient should be the gospel, not guilt.

**Accidental Pharisee:** The gospel clearly states that we are not righteous in and of ourselves. Nothing we do earns us any points before God – ever. In fact, our righteous deeds are like filthy rags before Him (Isaiah 64:6). The gospel declares us righteous because God graciously imputes Christ's righteousness (His perfect life) to our account when He saves us. Therefore, looking down on others, considering yourself "more spiritual" than others, or holding to extra-biblical expectations as a standard by which you judge other Christians is contrary to the gospel.

**The Cost of Sin:** The gospel reminds us that God paid a huge price for our sin: the sacrificial death of His Son. When we think about the enormous price that was paid in Jesus' blood, it should move us to hate our sin more and be more eager to repent.

**Your Relentless War Against Sin:** The gospel of Jesus Christ is one of grace – God's unmerited favor to sinful man. His salvation is received by grace through faith and our sanctification is also accomplished by grace through faith. Continuing to battle sin keeps us dependent upon God's continuing provision of grace and makes the gospel real in our lives.

3. List the top three topics mentioned in this DVD with which you most struggle. Write at least three things you learned from either the segment itself or from the study guide. Wherever possible, use Scripture to support your answers.
4. Name at least three of the six reasons (as presented in this DVD) God allows us to continue in our battle against sin. (Bonus points for each reason given beyond three.)
  1. To make us humble and dependent on God.
  2. To cultivate thankfulness.
  3. To promote compassion.
  4. To keep our focus on the gospel.
  5. To make us long for heaven.
  6. To experience God's sustaining grace (as opposed to only reading about it).
5. Evaluate this DVD by describing three things you learned, three things you disagreed with (giving biblical support for your opinion), and three things you would most like to share with your peers.