

EXTRA LIVES

Every now and then I will play a video game, if I have some extra free time. I noticed that in most games you get extra lives. If you mess up in the game you can start over, no problem. In these games there really is no consequence for your mistakes.

Sometimes I think we treat life as if it were a big video game. Far too often I think we take for granted the fact that God sent Jesus to die for us. (1 John 4:9) And we now can ask for forgiveness any time we want. So we can sin and sin and just pray for forgiveness. And we think it is all fine with God. Sometimes we use praying for forgiveness to use it as our extra life.

However, that's not what God wants. God wants us to really try to turn from what we have done. 2 Corinthians 7:10. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. Sometimes this can be really really hard. When we get in the habit of doing something it is hard to stop. Let's use speeding as an example. If I have a 60 minute commute to work, every single day and I speed 10 mph over the limit it saves me 15 whole min of driving time every day! We know it's wrong to break the law (Romans 13:1) so every day after I get out of the car I ask God to forgive me. But, then after work I speed home, and then I do it over and over every day.

If someone is doing that they are not really repenting their sin; they're just using it to ease their conscience. All they're really doing is using forgiveness as an "extra life" We don't get to do that in life. The verse above says that Godly grief is what produces repentance. Not worldly grief, not just wanting to be "cleared" of our transgressions.

Sin is something we should ALL be ashamed of, something that we should be sorry for! When we sin we should try to REPENT of it! Not just use another "life." When we "use another life" we are losing our own life in the process! If we do that we become like the people in Luke 6:46. Where Jesus says, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" We go and worship God and call Him our King. But, do we do His words day in and day out?

We only get one life! We can't use another life just because we want to. We can repent of sins. But, it has to be from the heart! Not just something we do like it's a video game.

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