

Because Jesus is greater, the greater life is possible.

BUT....life doesn't just happen – we have responsibility.

There are things you need to be doing....one of them is this....keeping your house clean....

not all houses here are in the same shape. BUT all houses constantly need some attention

SO... what shape is your house in?

THE CLOSET

This is a huge problem for all of us....we all have closets... probably the nastiest, scariest room in our house.

But we also have these drawers....that place where everything seems to end up.

The closets and drawers seem to be the places we put things never to be seen again.

On purpose, on accident....they are there, locked away, hidden, in secret.

they're there, taking up space and adding weight to your life. **(GO THROUGH)**

And you know what....we do this a lot with our sin – with struggles don't we.

Secret sin – struggles or burdens pushed to the back to where we think no one will see them...

Things we know to be wrong and simply try to hide....but also just things we're going through...we hide them too.

Scripture – EPHESIANS 5:11-17

(take no part in the **unfruitful works of darkness**.....expose them....wake up.....make best use of your time)

The biggest danger of hiding these things is that we feel like secrecy equals safety.

As long as no one knows we're good...this may help our conscience but it doesn't help our soul.

But there are other problems with the whole secret sin/struggle issue:

1. **God sees...Why hide?** God sees and knows. **Ps. 139:1-12,23-24** –
You hiding only exposes the audience you're really trying to please. Who are you trying to please?
2. **Secret sins or struggles destroy us slowly** – **PS. 32:3-4** – the worst feeling ever!
3. **Secret sins soon become public sins** – **ROMANS 2:16** – It won't skate by forever – it will come out.
Here's the deal...it may come out in consequences, lack of blessing/fruitfulness, judgement here.
4. **Secret Struggles hurt you and the church** – Why go at it alone when we're called to do life together?
You have people who love you and want to help you....let them!

There is great danger to secret sins and struggles...

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH IT? Steps to dealing with secret sins and struggles. (closet organizer/spring cleaning)

1. **Acknowledge it** – See the problem. See the need. See the future.
PRO. 28:13-14 – put the poison down – step away – Be still (bear/snake/sin)
2. **Invite someone in** - Invite someone into your story. (Don't go at it alone) (But choose this person wisely)
3. **CLEAN IT** – Dealing with secrets always involves cleaning up. For secret sin this begins with confession.
Hard truth but this is the reality. Confess it. **Bring it to light.**
Acknowledge and then confess. Same thing with our secret struggles....
4. **Seek to please God** – simple but true. Pursue holiness/godliness.
Attend church – read the Bible – seek friendship grounded in Him – have healthy habits –

Listen – there's only one way to clean a closet or drawers....get in there and do it.

Our spiritual closet...the things hiding in there....only one way to clean...the right way....stop hiding it...bring it to light. (ACKNOWLEDGE IT – DEAL WITH IT – MOVE ON FROM IT)

'Take heed of secret sins. They will undo thee if loved and maintained: one moth may spoil the garment; one leak drown the ship; a penknife stab can kill a man as well as a sword. So one sin may damn the soul'.

NEXT TV SLIDE HAS IMMEDIATE APPLICATIONS.



FLIP MY HOUSE: The Closet (Eph. 5:11-17)
Dealing with Secret Sin or Struggles.

The problems with Secret sins/Struggles:

1. Why hide, God sees – Psalm 139 (exposes our audience)
“secrecy doesn’t equal safety”
2. They destroy us slowly – PS. 32
3. They soon become public sins – James 1:15
4. They hurt you and the church

POSSIBLE GROUP QUESTIONS: (for tonight/throughout the week)

- What is lurking in my closet?
- What is my next step in the process of dealing with secret sin?
 - o Acknowledging? Dealing with it? Moving on?
- What is a struggle I am keeping to myself?

IMMEDIATE APPLICATION: (How we Clean the Closet)

- Deal with the sin (acknowledge it – deal with it – move on from it)
- Admit the struggle
- Invite people in to your story/life/struggle/issues.
- Seek to live a holy life.