

*For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts. – Mark 7:21*

Have you ever gotten a gorgeous red apple that made your mouth water; but when you bit into it, you found a worm? That's pretty disgusting!

Have you ever wondered how that worm got into the apple? Did you ever ask yourself if the worm came from inside or did it bore its way from the outside into the apple?

Scientists tell us that the worm got its beginning on the inside! They say that worm hatches from an egg that was laid in the apple blossom. After that wiggly, undesirable little creature hatches in the core, it begins to eat its way out of the apple.

The point of this illustration is that sin operates in much the same way. One pastor put it this way, "While Satan is man's enemy from without, sin is his enemy from within." The psalmist wrote, "I am evil, born of sin; you desire truth within, you alone are my Savior. Teach me wisdom in my heart."

When are we open to wisdom in our hearts? We are open to it when we are willing to face our sins and our failures honestly. We must then confess those sins and claim forgiveness in Christ, keeping in mind that even though Christ paid the penalty for all of our wrong-doings, we will never be completely free from sinful tendencies in this world. So be on guard for any temptations that may come your way. That red apple can be deceiving.

*Talk about this: What should parents do when they are trying to bring their children up with good values but there are so many evil influences in their lives?*