

A BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN

DOMINION

SELF • SATAN • CIRCUMSTANCE • SIN



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Let us begin at the beginning.

This study is built on the biblical truth that our Creator gave dominion to humankind. This theme should resonate with men, regardless of their religious persuasion. The basis for this study is found in the first chapter of Genesis and echoed by the psalmist.

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:26).

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet” (Psalm 8:4-6).

We are confident this study on dominion was inspired by God. We pray it helps every man understand and exercise his authority over the adversary—an authority given to him by Christ. This study offers biblical and empirical evidence that believers have dominion over:

- *SELF*
- *SATAN*
- *CIRCUMSTANCE*
- *SIN*

The authors—David K. Bernard, David S. Norris, Marvin Walker, and Michael J. Williams—are vanguards in the ministry to men. Each writes in his unique style. Each shares timeless truths to reinforce the faith of every man who desires a victorious life in Christ. These truths can be embraced by men of every socioeconomic status and spiritual maturity level. Novice believers are challenged through this writing while mature believers are intrigued by new insight. Each lesson can be taught in thirty to forty-five minutes. For in-depth classroom study, students may wish to pursue the scriptural passages further.

This study will add a dimension of biblical understanding that is unique to the role and responsibility of believing men. May God help you experience and exercise dominion.



DOMINION

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DOMINION OVER **SELF**

"We have met the enemy and he is us." Walt Kelly

BEGINNING WITH ME

What would we think if a skilled baseball umpire felt too self-conscious to call balls and strikes? Or if a gifted builder could not finish a project? If a man outlined dreams and goals but would not pursue them, would we want to follow him? Truthfully, there are moments we are like each of these people. Perhaps we are intimidated. We procrastinate. Fear may cause us to abandon our dreams.

Walt Kelly coined the phrase, "We have met the enemy and he is us." Kelly referred to the lackadaisical attitude humanity had toward nature and the environment. He felt that humans needed dominion over the planet to make the world safe and clean. Regardless of your opinion toward environmentalism, the dominion principle is biblical. The word dominion means "to take charge or be in control." Genesis 1:26 declares that man should "have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

When God commanded humanity to take dominion, He had more in mind than controlling the environment. The divine command was not given as a collective obligation; rather, it was an individual necessity. God insists that we control our specific world by taking dominion over self. He empowers us to do so. We were created in His image

(Genesis 1:26–27). We have been endowed with God-given abilities to create, take charge, and plan our future. We are hardwired with the ability to succeed. Intuitively we understand this, which is why we readily celebrate and follow those who have successfully taken control of their lives.

We all have tasks we want to accomplish. Eat healthier. Get in shape. Save money. Become more spiritual. While we know we have the capability to do better, many times we allow things to hinder us. Hindrances such as family circumstances, time constraints, workplace demands, or the emotional needs of loved ones can make it difficult to set and attain goals. Yet, if we are honest with ourselves, we realize none of these external hindrances stop our accomplishments. The enemy is not someplace out there. The greatest enemy is us.

READ

Genesis 1:26 and Psalm 8:4–6

RESPOND

What do you think *dominion* means in these verses?

What is the first step toward taking dominion?

List three goals you have in life:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What hinders you from achieving each goal?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

REFLECT

It has often been said,

Sow a thought, reap an action.

Sow an action, reap a habit.

Sow a habit, reap a character.

Sow a character, reap a destiny.

TAKING DOMINION

While all goals require effort, not all goals are created equal. John Lamedica reportedly achieved a Guinness World Record in 1999 by lying in a plexiglass coffin with more than twenty thousand live hissing cockroaches. Such an achievement is notable but not insurmountable. There is a possibility that we, too, could train to lie in a coffin with an even greater number of live cockroaches. By investing time and effort, we could steel our courage to accomplish such a feat. If we disliked this idea, we could select any number of world records to beat. We might try consuming more than sixty hot dogs in twelve minutes. Or we could challenge the domino record—laying the most dominos in a sequence so that flipping the last domino causes all tiles to fall. While that world record would require millions of dominos, we could develop the skills and patience to surpass it if we had the required desire and energy.

While record setting has its place, succeeding in such ventures has little lasting value. By contrast and without record-breaking skills, we can make an incredible difference in life by applying key principles—ones that teach us how to begin and be consistent in having dominion over ourselves.

MAKE A GAME PLAN

Rarely do things happen accidentally. A diet begins with willpower and is maintained by a plan. Physical fitness is accomplished by beginning and following a specific routine. Marathons are run intentionally. A marathon runner must decide to enter the race, fill out registration