



Meet the  
Best-Selling Author,  
Sunday 11:00.  
All Welcome!

followers of Christ meet at  
16 Morrell St., Btfd, ON, N3T 4J2  
*Sharing Jesus and the Journey*

**JOIN US!**

**Sunday**

Classes 10:00

Worship 11:00

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7:00

Phone 758-5673

(75 U-LORD)

ants can survive the climate change, the fungi can't.

Ironically, these deadly fungi can help save human lives. One derivative from the *cordyceps* is *ciclosporin*, a drug given to organ transplant patients because it suppresses the immune system. That lessens the chances the body will reject the new organ.

What a telling metaphor for those trying to lead a more spiritual life. We are the ants and sin is the fungus. Since we're not all tempted by the same thing, there are countless kinds of sin that target us where we're weakest. And sin, too, begins with mind control.

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind," Jesus says in Matthew 22:37. But "Satan, the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They're unable to see the glorious light of the Good News." (2 Cor. 4:4) The Good News, of course, is that Jesus makes salvation available to all.

But sin controls our minds with all kinds of toxins, from pride and impatience to anger and envy. Once we're infected, the first thing sin does is convince us to leave our church so we're isolated and alone. Sin convinces us that people don't care; that they'll never understand or accept us once the truth is known; and that it won't make any difference if we're there or not. All of that is the toxin talking.

But, left unattended, sin convinces us to anchor ourselves in isolation. Before long, its dangerous tentacles reach right through us and infect those around us, beginning with the ones we love the most. If sin isn't addressed and dealt with — with love, gentleness and humility — it can infect the whole church with its deadly spores.

But thankfully, sin can't survive in the radiant warmth of the Son. In him we find release, redemption and renewal. "Since you've heard about Jesus and learned the truth... throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life," says Paul. "Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God — truly righteous and holy." (Eph. 4:21-24)

With a renewed mind we need a new heart. And when we use our weakness as a stepping stone to growth — or share the experience to benefit others — we derive some good from sin and make it far less likely we'll reject our new heart. So let's take our sin seriously, stay safely in our church family, and resist the parasitic mind control of our culture. Your blessings will mushroom.



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## THE ANT-IDOTE

There's a humungus fungus among us. And it practises mind control.

In two places inside the Brazilian rainforest, scientists have found four new species of fungi able to make carpenter ants do their will by controlling their minds with chemicals. Variations of a parasitic fungus called



*cordyceps*, each fungus targets a specific species of carpenter ant and turns them into zombies before killing them.

First identified in 1865, this type of fungus is found almost everywhere on earth. Researchers now speculate there could be hundreds of fungi species yet to be discovered, each of them using mind control to capture a different kind of prey than all the others.

Here's how the process works. Once spores from the fungus begin to infect an ant's mind and body, the fungus uses an unidentified chemical to dominate the ant's thought process. Then the fungus turns the insect into a zombie, telling the ant to leave its colony, which goes against every instinct it possesses. Next, the prey is told to climb into a plant or tree and bite down on the underside of a leaf.

Once the ant is fatally infected by the parasite, it stays in place because of its death grip on the leaf. Then, in a scene right out of science fiction, the fungus grows a long stalk that goes right through the ant's head. From that stalk, it shoots out deadly spores to infect other ants. An entire colony can be wiped out.

But at least one of the four new fungi species may not survive long, according to scientists. That's because their high-elevation location is getting much hotter and drier because of global warming. Though the