

THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

Message 14: 3 CORE DISCIPLINES - AN ASSESSMENT

Discipline 1: Commitments

How _____ do you want to be _____?

Psalm 119:106 (ESV)

I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules.

The commitment of ACTION:

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

This means my first commitment is to _____, not _____.

This means my commitments must be without _____.

This means my commitment is to _____.

Analogy:

The commitment of INTENTION:

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Acceptable means “_____”

It is the intention to _____ in all our actions that is the key to a life of holiness.

We must guard ourselves from the “_____” way of thinking.

“... if you stop and ask yourself why you are not as holy as the primitive Christians were, your own heart will tell you that it is neither through ignorance, nor inability, but purely because you never thoroughly intended it ... This doctrine does not suppose that we have no need of divine grace, or that it is in our own power to make ourselves perfect. It only supposes that through the lack of a sincere intention of pleasing God in all our actions, we fall into such irregularities of life, as by the ordinary means of grace, we should have power to avoid.”

- William Law, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*

Personal Application:

What _____ commitments do I need to make?

If I am not _____, then I am not _____ about holiness.

What about **grace**?

Romans 6:12-15 (ESV)

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

Grace is both the Divine _____ and underserved _____ favor God grants us in response to our sin AND the Divine _____ and _____ to cease sinning.

Discipline 2: Convictions

What guides my _____?

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

What is _____ me?

Sinful society < ----- > Godliness

What most determines where I am on this continuum?

Psalms 1:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Psalms 119:59 (NIV)

I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes.

The work of **grace** in my convictions:

Psalm 119:25-40 (ESV)

²⁵ My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!

²⁶ When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes!

²⁷ Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

²⁸ My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!

²⁹ Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!

³⁰ I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your rules before me.

³¹ I cling to your testimonies, O LORD; let me not be put to shame!

³² I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

³⁶ Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!

³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.

³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared.

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good.

⁴⁰ Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!

Personal Application:

What newly founded or rediscovered _____ convictions do I now hold since beginning this study?

What happens to me when I consistently violate my own convictions?

Typically, I will either _____ what I _____ or begin to _____ what I _____.

Discipline 3: Choices

Is every _____ I make a choice to be _____?

Ephesians 4:25-32 (ESV)

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Godliness is forged _____!

Personal Application:

How have my choices changed as I commit to live a godly life?

What choices do I still need to make in order to be godly?

The work of **grace** in my choices:

Galatians 5:13-18 (ESV)

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Grace means _____, but not ...

To walk in concert with God's Spirit is true freedom!