

Dangers of Desires DESIRES (WHAT I WANT)

God created desire and desirable things, however, God commanded desires with control –

Gen 2:9 And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground — trees that were PLEASING to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 2:16-17 - 16 And the **Lord God commanded the man**, "**YOU ARE FREE TO EAT FROM ANY TREE IN THE GARDEN**; 17 but **YOU MUST NOT EAT FROM THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL**, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

WHAT ARE "EVIL DESIRES"?

There are two types of evil desires - Col 3:5 **Put to death**, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

- **Kakos Epithumia - Always unacceptable and Unacceptable when done outside of God's boundaries** – Murder, Homosexuality, revenge, and Sex, desires for love ones, enjoyment...
- **Pathos – Excessive, uncontrolled** - Any addiction and gluttony.

We are in times that embrace "evil desires" when people obey "desires" rather than God and "evil desires" will be a main characteristic of false teachers - Jude 18-21 - 18 They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." 19 These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. 21 **KEEP YOURSELVES in God's love*** as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

The world's choice of pleasures, which are not in line with God, encourages evil desires - 1 Peter 4:3-5 - 3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do — **LIVING IN debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry**. 4 **THEY THINK IT STRANGE** that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. 5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

WHAT EXACTLY MAKES DESIRES EVIL?

When we allow us to run us - Mark 7:20-23 - 20 He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' 21 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 **All these evils come from inside** and make a man 'unclean.'"

Embracing the world and what the world produces - 1 John 2:15-17 - 15 **Do not love the world or anything in the world**. If anyone loves the world, **THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM**. 16 For **EVERYTHING** in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — **comes not from the Father but from the world**. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

What we allow to control our bodies. - Rom 6:12-13 - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

Love of Wealth, (one of the most common and dangerous desires) - 1 Tim 6:9-11- People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 11 **But you, man of God, flee from all this**, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

Simply put, evil desires come from serving self rather than God - Rom 8:5-8 - 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature HAVE THEIR MINDS SET ON WHAT THAT NATURE DESIRES; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, NOR CAN IT DO SO. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature CANNOT please God.

**** THERE ARE THOSE THAT SEEK GOD THROUGH THEIR SINFUL NATURE WHICH IS NOT SEEKING GOD AT ALL. (2 Ti 4:3 see later)**

THE DANGER OF LIVING A LIFE CONTROLLED BY DESIRE

Desire is the origin of sin - James 1:13-15 - 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, BY HIS OWN EVIL DESIRE, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Desire is the source of the world's corruption - 2 Peter 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world CAUSED BY EVIL DESIRES.

Simply put, LIVING FOR your desires is living for Satan - Eph 2:1-3 - As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following ITS desires and thoughts.

THE DANGERS OF DESIRES EXPLAINED?

Desires are what's corrupting man - Eph 4:22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is BEING CORRUPTED by its DECEITFUL DESIRES;

Hinders the effects of the Word in our lives - Mark 4:18-19 - 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, **hear the word;** 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and ***choke the word, making it unfruitful.***

Man's desires are NEVER satisfied – Eccl 6:7 All man's efforts are for his mouth, yet his appetite is never satisfied.

Desires that seem acceptable, can distort decision making - Matt 10:37 "**Anyone** who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;

Our desires cause internal and external battles - James 4:1-3 - What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your DESIRES that BATTLE WITHIN YOU? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

fleshly driven desires disrupt our wellbeing-1 Peter 2:11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to **abstain from** sinful desires, which war against your soul. * **We are not here to get what the world has to offer**

When we allow our desires to call the shots, eventually we are enslaved by our desires - 1 Cor 6:12 "Everything is permissible for me"-but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"-but I will not be mastered by anything.

It is one of the things that makes us vulnerable to false teachers - 2 Peter 2:18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, **BY APPEALING TO THE LUSTFUL DESIRES OF SINFUL HUMAN NATURE,** they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.

It's distorting the purpose and the importance of church -2 Tim 4:3-4 - 3 For the time will come when men **WILL NOT** put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

***When someone goes to church to fulfill their desires, not to serve God.**

Distorts true wealth - Prov 21:17 He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.

We make desires the purpose and priority which results in disaster

We don't do it for God -1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Our priorities are all mixed up -Matt 6:32 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

We dangerously lives for the wrong purpose - Gal 6:8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Without Godly wisdom, fulfilled desires would be dangerous to us - Prov 17:16 Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?

HOW DO WE AVOID BEING CONTROLLED BY DESIRE AND KEEPING DESIRE CONTAINED?

We must first get our purpose straight - Ps 37:4-5 -4 delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:

FEAR GOD - Ps 145:19 He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.

Remember it's not what you feel, it's what you do - Mark 14:38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

***Satan will try and make you think, "Because you feel it you should fulfill it."**

Like Christ, deal with the desires of the flesh - 1 Peter 4:1-2 - Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with THE SAME ATTITUDE, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. 2 **As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.**

***Our goal is not to change our desires; it is to keep in-check our life purpose**

Our priorities must be Christ - Luke 9:24-25 - 24 For whoever wants to save his life **will lose it,** but whoever **loses his life for me will save it.** 25 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?

NEVER make self the purpose - Phil 2:3-4 - Do **NOTHING** out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

We must have our priorities straight in order to choose between right and wrong (a good example Moses) - Heb 11:24-27 - 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 **HE CHOSE to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.** 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, **because he was looking ahead to his reward.** 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Treat the "evil desire" as the sin - Matt 5:27-29 - 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her **in his heart**. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Our heart is what guides our lives - Prov 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Be holy - 1 Peter 1:14-17 - As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

KNOW what is truly good for you and what is not - Prov 30:8-9 - 8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. 9 Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

Know what to avoid and what we need to pursue - 2 Tim 2:22 **FLEE** the evil desires of youth, and **PURSUE** righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Do not pursue ungodly people-1 Cor 15:33 - Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

It is true that when we got saved, we received God's desires -Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

However, though God gave us His desires, it's up to us to use the power given to us to rid ourselves of our desires. - James 1:21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. (Col3:5-10)

We will be judged by the Word, therefore we should live by the Word. - Heb 4:12-13- 12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

We need to be self-controlled - 1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; **set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed**.

Contentment is the major key to stay clear of Desire's dangers

Be happy with what we have, not anxious about what we don't have - Eccl 6:9 Better what the eye sees than the roving of the appetite. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

It's good not to make your wants a priority - 1 Tim 6:6-7- 6 But **GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT** is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Contentment is a learned attitude we get if we truly depend on Christ - Phil 4:12-13 - 12 **I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty**. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 **I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH**

The answer to how to avoid the "desire damage" - Gal 5:16-17 - 16 So I say, **LIVE BY THE SPIRIT, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature**. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

***Controlling desires is equivalent to going on a diet...you change the purpose.**

It's okay to enjoy yourself, just know you have to answer to God for ALL of it - Eccl 11:9 Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, **but know that for ALL THESE THINGS GOD WILL BRING YOU TO JUDGMENT**.

Question: (Dangers of Desires)

Name: _____

1. Describe the two types of “evil desires” -

2. How does the world’s pleasures encourage evil desires? -

3. How can our desires make us unclean?

4. Those who live for desires have their minds set on what?

5. Explain the process of how desire results in sin.

6. What is desire doing to us that we must get rid of it?

7. What must a man do to satisfy his desires?

8. Give an example of pleasing the sinful nature vs pleasing the Spirit.

9. What all must we do for God to give us the desires of our hearts?

10. There are two things from us that are NEVER to be the bases for what we do. What are they?

11. In your own words, explain what contentment is.