

"howwhyWHOwhathowmuch"

COMPASSIONATE EVANGELISM

Matthew 5

"Blessed Are ...: For They Shall ..."

Step 5: Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask him to remove my CHARACTER DEFECTS.

Romans 12:1-2, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

I. WHERE DO MY CHARACTER DEFECTS COME FROM?

My CHROMOSOMES - Genetics explain predisposition, but they don't excuse sin.

My CIRCUMSTANCES - Character defects are often attempts to fill unmet needs.

My CHOICES - Character defects are often positive qualities being misused.

II. WHY IS IT SO HARD TO CHANGE THEM?

1. Because I've had them SO LONG.
2. Because I IDENTIFY with them.
3. Because they have a PAYOFF.
4. Because SATAN discourages me.

III. HOW DO I COOPERATE WITH GOD'S CHANGE PROCESS?

Romans 12:2, "be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

1. Focus on changing ONE DEFECT at a time.
Proverbs 17:24, "Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth."
2. Focus on victory ONE DAY at a time.
Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread."
Matthew 6:34, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself."
3. Focus on GOD'S POWER, not willpower.
Jeremiah 13:23, "Can the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."
But . . .
Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
4. Focus on what I WANT, not on what I DON'T WANT.
Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."
5. Focus on DOING good, not FEELING good.
Galatians 5:16, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."
6. Focus on people who HELP me, not HINDER me.
Proverbs 27:1, "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."
7. Focus on PROGRESS, not on PERFECTION.
Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

