



Pursuing Holiness (3) (A godly disposition)

Previously

- We are continuing to examine our pursuit of holiness.
- We have addressed:
 - Being devoted, a faithful servant
 - Being separate and living pure
- Last week, we noted some attitudes to promote holiness: Determination, reverence, love, contentment, gratitude, humility, peaceable, kind & impartial
- Today, we want to address the disposition that promotes holiness

Pursuing a godly disposition

- Disposition - 1. a prevailing tendency, mood, or inclination. 2. temperamental makeup, 3. the tendency to act in a certain manner under given circumstances. While related to attitudes, our disposition is who we are overall. E.g. **Galatians 5:22-23** - the “fruit of the Spirit”
Our disposition shapes our attitudes

Pursuing a godly disposition

Integrity

- Steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code. 2. The state of being unimpaired; soundness; 3. the quality or condition of being whole or undivided, completeness.
- Integrity is about living a life of consistency, based upon God's word.
 - Not a double life that is constantly fighting to gain control
 - Remaining steadfast and will not "fall apart" when challenges arise

Pursuing a godly disposition

Integrity

- **Job 2:3**
Matthew 23:1-4, 15:7-9 - lack of integrity
2 Peter 1:5 - virtue
Titus 2:7 - young men showing integrity in doctrine
Proverbs 11:3, 21:3
Hebrews 13:18 - living honorably

Pursuing a godly disposition

Integrity

- The one who lives with integrity will:
 - Align the principles that govern his life with truth
 - Be consistent between his principles and conduct
 - Be consistent both publicly and privately
- Consider David - **Psalm 26:1-3, 101:2**

Pursuing a godly disposition

Soberness

- A mind (and body) that is free of intoxicants.
We know the body can be intoxicated and impairs the mind. But so can the spiritual mind (**Mark 7:18-23, Proverbs 4:23**)
- Why be sober? Because Christians are always to be alert. Aware of our surroundings and what Satan is up to, often using others to do his work.

Pursuing a godly disposition

Soberness

- We are called upon to be sober:
 - **1 Peter 5:8** - and vigilant, considering the devil's work
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:6-8** - watch and be sober, prepared for battle
 - **Titus 2:11-12** - we live soberly, righteously and godly
 - **Romans 12:3** - think soberly, rather than prideful

Pursuing a godly disposition

Serious

- Related to soberness (often the word sober means serious - e.g. **1 Timothy 3:2**)

This is one who is thoughtful and restrained in his words and actions. He is not flippant or half-hearted. He knows what is truly important

Pursuing a godly disposition

Serious

- We are called upon to be serious:
 - **1 Peter 4:7** - serious and watchful in your prayers
 - **1 Peter 1:13-15** - gird up the loins of your mind, be sober
 - **Ephesians 5:15-16** - walk circumspectly... redeeming the time
 - **1 Corinthians 13:11** - illus. put away childish things

Pursuing a godly disposition

Serious

- I have concerns with a society that is less than serious about many things. We are an entertainment driven society seeking constant amusement. Many churches are catering to this and with great success. But the seriousness of the gospel suffers! Consider **2 Timothy 4:2-5**

Pursuing a godly disposition

Serious

- Does this mean I cannot “have fun” or “joke around”?
No! God wants us to enjoy life. He has given us this world for our pleasure (cf. Ecclesiastes 3:4)
We enjoy being around the one who “brightens up the room” with well placed humor.
BUT they know when to get serious! (cf. Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1)
- Life is serious, and so is eternity

Pursuing a godly disposition

Self-control/discipline

- To live a dedicated life requires hard work, a focused mindset, and a willingness to sacrifice.
We must focus on God and spiritual matters even in the face of distractions
 - Given enough time, distractions WILL come! We need the control/discipline to overcome them

Pursuing a godly disposition

Self-control/discipline

- 2 words related, but different in meaning. Both work together to accomplish good behavior
 - Self-control is self-restraint over impulses, emotions, and desires
 - Self-discipline is control of ourselves where we ACT properly - doing what we need to do and not doing what we do not need to do.
- They complement each other much like the grace and mercy of God

Pursuing a godly disposition

Self-control/discipline

- Self-control:
Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Peter 1:5-8,
negatively - 2 Timothy 3:3
 - Proverbs 29:11
 - Proverbs 14:29
 - 2 Timothy 1:7 - a sound mind
("self-control" ESV; "discipline"
NASB)

Pursuing a godly disposition

Self-control/discipline

- Self-control:
 - **1 Corinthians 6:12**
 - **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** - love suffers long and is kind...does not behave rudely...
 - **James 1:19** - swift to hear, slow to speak
 - **1 Corinthians 10:13** - no temptation..., we CAN control ourselves

Pursuing a godly disposition

Self-control/discipline

- Self-discipline:
 - **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** - run to win, temperate. Even Paul needed this
 - **Romans 12:1-2** - transformed by the renewing of your mind
 - **Hebrews 12:1-2** - run the race with endurance

Pursuing a godly disposition

Self-control/discipline

- Self-discipline:
 - **Galatians 6:9** - do not grow weary in doing good

Any verse that gives us positive instructions calls for self-discipline (e.g. **Hebrews 5:12** - by this time...; **6:1** - go on to perfection; **Ephesians 4:31-32** - put away... but be... [this verse has both control and discipline])

Pursuing a godly disposition

Self-control/discipline

- Pursuing holiness is not an easy thing to do. It requires discipline and taking control of everything in your life. Even your thoughts - **2 Corinthians 10:4-6.**

Concluding thoughts

- We could examine other qualities of our disposition (e.g. patience, courage, tenacity, etc.)
The ones we have examined are sufficient to help us understand that pursuing holiness is based upon who we are within!

Concluding thoughts

- Final note: Understand that you CAN change, even your disposition.
 - Such is the power of the gospel -
Hebrews 4:12, Romans 1:16
 - **1 Corinthians 5:11, 1 Peter 4:3-4**show that as a Christian you are now different!
- **But that change will only happen if you have the genuine desire to do so!**

Do you have a holy
disposition?



Pursuing
Holiness

Let us pray!