

THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

Message 7: MY PERSONAL BATTLE PLAN

A necessary first question:

How important is it to me to ...

Why holiness?

Colossians 3:1-17 (ESV)

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. ¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

At least 5 reasons:

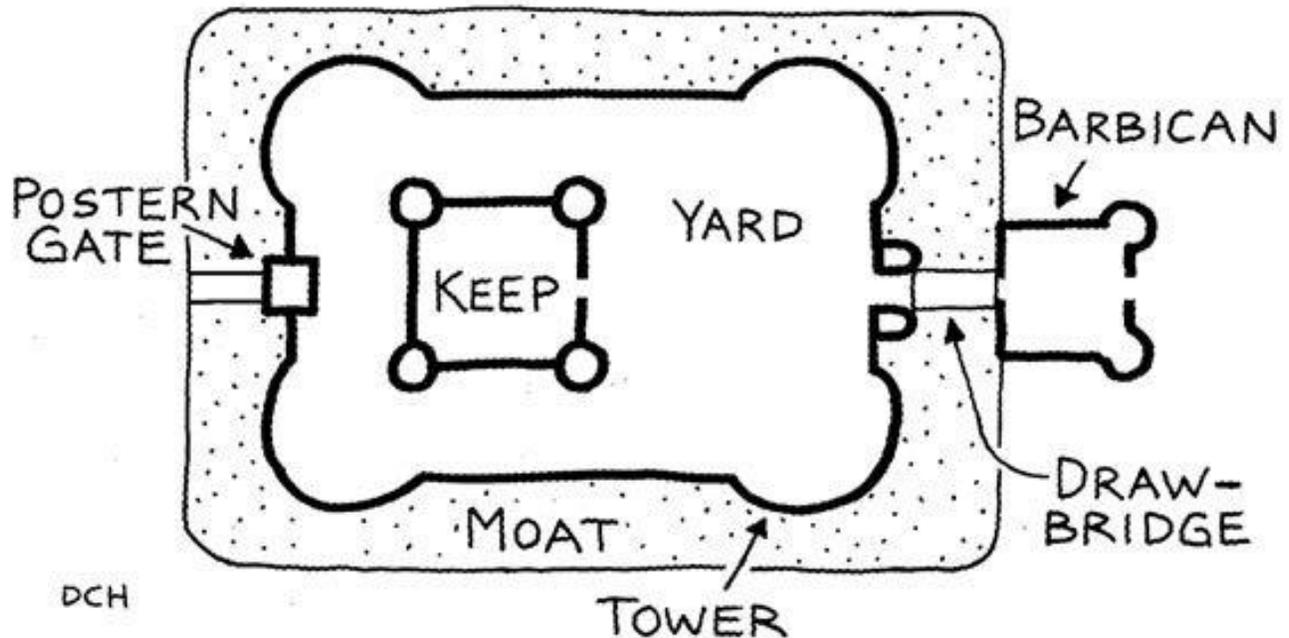
- 1) I am a _____ person
- 2) I am a _____ creation
- 3) I belong to _____
- 4) Christ rules in my _____
- 5) I am commanded to _____ Jesus in all I say and do.

Review: The arena of the battle is my _____.

Luke 6:45 (ESV)

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil ...

A Personal **Battle Plan** for Holiness



1. Take _____ against the obvious immediate threat.

- a. What sin am I battling most right now?
 - i. How does this sin manifest itself?
 - ii. How long has it been in my life?
 - iii. What are some of the consequences of this sin?
 - iv. How often am I tempted to commit this sin?
 - v. How often am I committing this sin?
 - vi. Why am I particularly vulnerable to this sin?
- b. What does the Bible say about this sin?
- c. What patterns, habits, or circumstances most frequently lead to defeat against this sin?
- d. Have I experienced true godly sorrow over this sin? (2 Cor. 7:10)
- e. What assurances do I have from the Bible as I battle this sin?
- f. Can I identify any idols of the heart that are at the root of this sin?

What **radical actions** may be necessary in battling this sin?

Am I willing to take them **right now**?

2. Utilize every _____ in my _____,

- a. _____ and _____ God's glory. (Philippians 1:20-21)
- b. _____ and _____ God's laws. (Psalm 119)
- c. _____ constantly for to be holy. (Psalm 139:23-24)
- d. Don't fight _____ (Hebrews 3:12-13)
- e. Learn to " _____ " (Mark 2:27)

3. Control _____ through the "gate".

- a. What I _____ (Job 31:1)
- b. What I _____ (Ephesians 4:29-32)
- c. What I _____ about. (Philippians 4:8)
- d. What I allow to _____ me (Matthew 24:10-13)
- e. Other?

4. Reinforce my _____.

- a. Personal bible study including _____! (Psalm 119:11)
- b. Quality _____ that challenges me to live a holy life.
- c. _____ relationships that include _____! (James 5:16)

5. Always have an _____ (1 Corinthians 10:13)

What do I do in the face of temptation? Answer: _____, not _____
(2 Timothy 2:22)

Case study:

6. At all costs, guard the " _____ "

Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

From *Basic Biblical Concepts of Human Motivation* by David Powlison:

1) What do you love? Hate?

This “first great commandment” question searches your heart, soul, mind and might. There is no deeper question to ask of any person at any time. There is no deeper explanation for why you do what you do.

2) What do you want, desire, crave, lust and wish for? Whose desires do you obey?

This summarizes the internal operations of the “flesh” in the New Testament epistles. Notice, sometimes another person’s will rules you (peer pressure, people -pleasing, slave-like behavior). Your heart’s craving in such cases is to get whatever good they promise and avoid whatever bad they threaten.

3) What do you seek, aim for, pursue? What are your goals and expectations?**4) What do you fear? What do you not want? What do you tend to worry about?****5) What do you think you need? What are your felt needs?**

Felt needs are frequently taken as necessities to be acquired, not as deceptive slave-masters.

6) Where do you find refuge, safety, comfort, escape, pleasure, security?

This is the Psalms’ question, digging out your escapism and false trust, false refuge.

7) What or who do you trust?

Trust is one of the major verbs relating you to God--or to false gods and lies. Who must you please? Whose opinion of you counts? From whom do you desire approval and fear rejection? Whose value system do you measure yourself against? In whose eyes are you living? When you lose God, you enter a jungle of distortion. You tend to live before your own eyes or before the eyes of others--or both.

8) Who must you please? Whose opinion of you counts? From whom do you desire approval and fear rejection? Whose value system do you measure yourself against? In whose eyes are you living?

When you lose God, you enter a jungle of distortion. You tend to live before your own eyes or before the eyes of others--or both.

Next week:

The Necessity of **Training and Discipline**