

How People Change

7 strategies to aid in the pursuit of growth

Equip Class – Session 2 – January 17, 2024

Guard Against Worldliness

I. Introduction

“While the world’s philosophies and ideologies and much that it offers may appear attractive and appealing, that is deception. It’s true and pervasive nature is evil, harmful, ruinous, and satanic. Its deadly theories are raised up against the knowledge of God and holds the souls of men captive (*The MacArthur Study Bible – ESV* pg. 1916).

Eight takeaways from the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden (taken from *Redeeming Money* by Paul Tripp - pgs. 44-53).

II. Listened to an alternate voice.

“But there is a voice to which we are tempted to give precedence over the voice of the Lord. I’m not talking about the voice of the devil; I’m talking about our very own voice . . . no one is more influential in your life than you are, because no one talks to you more consistently than you do” (Paul Tripp, *Redeeming Money* pg. 45).

82% of transgender individuals have contemplated suicide; and 40% have attempted suicide (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>).

“Counselors can counsel meaningfully because Scripture is sufficient. Bible study leaders can lead confidently because Scripture is clear. Preachers can preach with boldness because their biblical text is authoritative. And evangelists can evangelize with urgency because the Scripture is necessary . . . Why would we build our churches on the shallow soil of pragmatic philosophy? Why would we counsel with the leftovers of worldly wisdom? Why would we look first to the mountains or to the echo chamber of the self in our moments of deepest pain and crisis? Why would we infuse our worship services with so little Scripture? Why would we sing songs bereft of biblical substance? Why would we prostrate the Word of God to even the smartest sounding words of men (Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word* pg. 92-93)?

III. Wanted what was prohibited.

How do we combat this challenge of wanting what is prohibited by God?

“The soul is so constituted that it craves fulfillment from things outside itself and will embrace earthly joys for satisfaction when it cannot reach spiritual ones. The believer is in spiritual danger if he allows himself to go for any length of time without tasting the love of Christ and savoring the felt comforts of a Savior’s presence. When Christ ceases to fill the heart with satisfaction, our souls will go in silent search of other lovers” (John Flavel).

IV. Thought they knew better.

V. Minimized God’s present provision.

“I am deeply persuaded that there is a direct connection between ingratitude and financial trouble . . . A grateful heart focuses on the riches provided and not on the things that may be lacking. The greatest protection for Eve against the temptation of the Serpent would have been a grateful heart” (Paul Tripp, *Redeeming Money* pg. 47).

VI. Allowed themselves to doubt God.

VII. Decided to step over God’s boundary (James 1:13-18).

VIII. Denied clear potential consequences.

“One of the scariest aspects of the deceitfulness of sin is how it enables sinners to deny the consequences of their sin. We are all able to swindle ourselves into thinking that we will not suffer the ill effects of the wrong things we do” (Paul Tripp, *Redeeming Money* pg. 50).

IX. Shifted the blame to someone else.

X. Conclusion.

XI. Discussion Questions.

A. What did you hear in this talk that was most encouraging or helpful?

B. Paul Tripp wrote, “The greatest protection for Eve against the temptation of the Serpent would have been a grateful heart” (Paul Tripp, *Redeeming Money* pg. 47). Why do you think gratitude is so important in our fight against worldliness and sin?

C. Discuss your reaction to the following quote:

- “Counselors can counsel meaningfully because Scripture is sufficient. Bible study leaders can lead confidently because Scripture is clear. Preachers can preach with boldness because their biblical text is authoritative. And evangelists can evangelize with urgency because the Scripture is necessary . . . Why would we build our churches on the shallow soil of pragmatic philosophy? Why would we counsel with the leftovers of worldly wisdom? Why would we look first to the mountains or to the echo chamber of the self in our moments of deepest pain and crisis? Why would we infuse our worship services with so little Scripture? Why would we sing songs bereft of biblical substance? Why would we prostrate the Word of God to even the smartest sounding words of men (Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word* pg. 92-93)?

----- At Your Table -----

D. Of the 8 takeaways from Adam and Eve, which one is your biggest struggle and what can be done to overcome it?

1. Listened to an alternate voice
2. Wanted what was prohibited
3. Thought they knew better
4. Minimized God’s present provision
5. Allowed themselves to doubt God
6. Decided to step over God’s boundary
7. Denied clear potential consequences
8. Shifted the blame to someone else

E. As we have heard about the importance of gratitude in our fight against sin, what are some things for which you are thankful?

F. If there a burden or concern that you want to share with your table as a prayer request? Then have someone pray for that request.