

Simple Method of Teaching -

- 1.) Starting at Ideals
- 2.) Moving to Context
- 3.) Applying to Reality

Goals of this class

- 1.) Help you identify the things you have learned from past experience (either good or bad) and help you experience new things in God.
- 2.) Contrast the principles of God with the problems of the flesh
- 3.) Help you solidify your identity with Jesus Christ.
- 4.) Help you to be an effective communicator of the Gospel and Godly principles.
- 5.) Help you to be rooted in the Foundational Principles of Salvation- Love, Faith and Grace.
- 6.) Help you establish limits on your actions and behavior in order to become more committed to Christ.
- 7.) Help you understand the boundaries of your relationships in order to strengthen them.

Digging Beneath the Surface

Focus Scriptures:

Mark 7:18-23.... 18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; 19 Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? 20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Rom 1:29-31... 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Romans 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

II Corinthians 12:20 For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and *that* I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest *there be* debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

Galatians 5:19-21.... 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

II Timothy 3:2-5.... 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

The Scriptures above are mostly focused on negative aspects of human nature that are not always visible to the eye. They are directly related to the character of the individual and not just the actions and words of the individuals. When these character traits dominate an individual, the actions and words of the individual are sinful.

Trying to stop one's sinful actions is not the answer to growth in Christ. It is the work of grace on the individual's character that changes the inside of a man and then it manifests on the outside.

James 1:13-15 speaks of what I like to call the equation for sin.

James 1:13-15 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is **tempted**, when he is drawn away of his own **lust**, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth **sin**: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Desire + Temptation = Sinful Actions.

In looking at the left hand of this equation, we all agree that temptation is the one thing that never goes away. What completes the equation is the desire to accept and yield to temptation. If the desire is removed, the sinful acts go with it.