

315 Faith Discipleship: "Lifestyles"

March. 26th / April 16th 40-45 minutes

Note: We are going to toss around a couple ideas today that each of which would be hours of discussion on their own - We are not psychiatrists, psychologists, or councilors. However, we are, for the most part, like-minded believers that can look into some various situations/questions.

Pray

(Question): What does "Holy" mean?

Literally, holy living means that the Christian lives a life that is **set apart**, reserved to give glory to God. It is a life of discipline, focus, and attention to matters of righteous living. We are called to be something different from the world, something unique in behavior, thought, & action. As compared to the world, we are called to be "weird" even.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. - **Ephesians 4:22-24 - NIV**

This is an excellent verse to apply to what we spend our free time on....Games, Movies, shows, books, music..... Discussion? / Examples?

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." - **1 Peter 1:14-16**

Key Truth:

"We are called to be set apart for God - This mandate can sometimes come on you in unexpected ways. The more second nature or "first instinct" we can make our worldview one that is holy -the easier those unexpected moments/decisions can be to navigate."

(Question):

What kind of a person are you going to be? You can make that decision now. - Maintaining it, strengthening it is another story and takes a lifetime, but you can set a standard for what you will and won't do...will or won't accept. For the believer in Christ, the things of God is where that standard begins, you can also add personal preference to that as well.

Pumpkins: Last week we hit on a few holidays and talked about whether or not Christian's could (or "should") celebrate them. We mentioned that pretty much all

holidays have some sort of traditions or characteristic that at one time was considered cult-like or pagan - Jack O Lanterns for instance. I love putting candles in carved pumpkins...I do not, however, worry about warding off evil spirits or demons. Our God handles that for us. - but what about other examples?

- Reid's Easter Egg answer

Let's do a few more Examples: Does the Bible say you cannot drink alcohol? Nope..We've talked about this before right. You're not told "No", but you are given lots of reasons and examples not too. Check out this example of a decision.

Glass of Wine - Story of the couple in Rome, my refusal to drink wine and the vastly different responses from a couple of mentors.

12 I am free to do anything I want, but some things are not good for me to do. I am free to do anything, but I will not become a slave of anything. - **1st Corinth 6:12**

Where We Stopped Last Time

Rebel Flag - Story of Steve's Car & the 90's clothing brand...East Tennessee in General.

"All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God." - Romans 14

Black Lives Matter: - Discussion with Co-Workers (words have meaning - and sometimes that meaning can be different to various groups)

The Greatest Commandment

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." - **Matthew 22 (NIV)**

Are we all Children of God? I think it's more accurate to say, We are all creations of God, made in His image. One of the only reasons you need to be kind, loving, & considerate is that alone...all the many other reasons are just extra.

We are all Creations of God & when we come to saving knowledge of Christ we become "Children of God". (**John 1:12**)

Quotes:"Father break my heart for the things that break the heart of God."

"Lord allow me to see people the way you see them."

(Question):

Here is a question for us to wrap our mind around. This is an excellent example of looking at the world or an aspect of our world through a Christian/Scriptural lens. Also, this question was submitted by a student a while back - so, lets give this one a shot:

" Is God Anti- Gay?" - Ok, that's a good one. Let's look at a Couple items here.

What is the Gospel? What is Sin? (Romans 3:23 & 6:23) - So, are Christians..or is Christianity "anti-homosexual"... is God Anti-Gay? Let's watch this video then discuss.

Video: <https://youtu.be/IZFCB9sduxQ>

Discuss: So, how would you answer that questions of is God anti-gay? Tim Keller pointed more to does this or that send you to Hell (or Heaven for that matter)

God's design for sexuality has always been within the bounds of marriage - Marriage, being between one man & one woman. Anything outside of that is not moral...therefore that action is correctly labeled "sexual immorality".

Do you understand his reference to the pride issue? This is that "unpardonable sin" issue...if you reject the Holy Spirit, if you reject the Gospel - there is no coming back from that. If you reject that you have sin in your life & your personal need for a savior & Lord...that is what results in a person going to Hell? "Heterosexuality doesn't send you to Heaven...." - Tim Keller

(Maybe?? Quick Question): _____

Is All Sin The Same? Nope. There are definitely differences in the immediate consequences and the impact of various sins. "Cheating on your taxes" compared to "Murdering your Accountant"...Running a Red light or cheating on a test...all various immediate consequences, Right?

The thing that is the SAME about all sin is the ultimate consequence. All sin separates you from God and requires reconciliation..