

OPENING TEACHING

1. The Beginning of a Biblical Model: The Image of God *Genesis 1:26-28*: Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. . ."
 - a. What does it involve?
 - i We resemble God. We're more than physical bodies. We're living souls. It's in our personhood that we're like Him.
2. How are we like God and unlike God?
 - a. How we are different (the infinite vs the finite).
 - i God is independent. He doesn't need or require anything or anyone outside of Himself.
 - ii Man is dependent. In every sphere of life I am totally dependent upon God for two things:
 - (1) My very existence.
 - (2) My proper functioning.
 - (3) Man is depraved. The essence of sin is denying my dependence. *Romans 3:10-12*. Sin is basically a hatred for how we've been made (dependent, finite) and our attempts to be as God (independent, infinite) (*Genesis 3:5*) - a picture of vulnerability, The basis of all religions = trying to be God.
3. How we are similar
 - a. God is personal
 - i He is love and meaning
 - ii He is wisdom and truth
 - iii He is righteousness
 - iv He is perfectly involved in His world
 - b. Man is personal
 - i Man has the capacity to long for love and meaning
 - ii Man has the capacity to think, reason, evaluate
 - iii Man has the capacity to choose and to act
 - iii Man has the capacity to feel, to subjectively experience his world
4. Man, like God, is a:
 - i Personal being who longs.
 - ii Rational being who thinks
 - iii Volitional being who chooses
 - iv Emotional being who experiences feeling
 - v Having these four capacities is what it means to be made in God's image.
5. How the Fall has affected our image of Him.
 - a. The Glorious Ruin.
 - i Sin hasn't caused the image of God in us to disintegrate, but it has deeply affected it.
 - b. Our goal in this life is to be recreated in the image of Christ.
 - i *Eph. 4:24* - put on new self
 - ii *Col. 3:10* - In Him we are made complete
 - iii *Rom. 8:29* - Predestined to conform to the image of the Son.
6. An Overview of the Capacities of Personhood

We have seen that there are certain capacities of personhood that we share with God. This, at least in part, defines being made in the image of God.
7. Man is a personal being who longs.



- a. *Ps. 42:1-2* - As the deer pants...so my soul *longs* for Thee
- b. *Ps: 63:1* - I shall seek Thee earnestly, my soul *thirsts*, my heart *yearns* for Thee.
- c. The Bible makes the assumption that people have deep hearts that are thirsty or hungry for something. When working as intended (as dependent beings, not independent), our deep thirst is felt as a longing for God.
- i *Deut. 6:5* - Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength
 - ii *Matt.22:36* - Love God & others
 - iii *I Cor. 10:31* - Eat, drink to the glory of God
 - iv *Matt. 5:16* - Let your light shine before men so they may see your good deeds & glorify God.
- d. These passages point out that we are designed to:
- i Have a deep relationship with God and deep relationships with other people: LOVE.
 - ii Make an impact in our world that brings God glory: PURPOSE
 - iii We are dependent beings w/o resources within ourselves to live as we were designed to live.
 - (1) Relationships that don't require God's resources = counterfeit.
 - (2) Impact that doesn't require God's resources = illegitimate. Reasoning: God created us with the capacity for relationship & impact; no resources to do it on our own; therefore we desire the resources to fulfill those longings. Because we are fallen beings, we will seek resources over which we have some control. In human relationships, it's easier to develop patterns of manipulation than attitudes of vulnerability. The more control we can exercise over the resource we turn to, the more attracted we are to it. When we *do* long for God as He intended, as the One Who alone can satisfy our soul, we do find satisfaction and we glorify Him with satisfied lives. When we cover over our longings in order to resist being vulnerable, then we will feel longings for something other than God.
 - (a) Distorted longings → illegitimate pleasure → enslavement (addiction) to whatever it is I think is giving me pleasure
8. Man is a rational being who thinks & evaluates.
- Gen. 6:5*
- Heb. 4:12* - Word living, active, sharper than 2-edged sword
- a. Man - a thinking being who moves in a direction. "Heart" = deepest part of man → ideas & convictions → direction.
- i People assess and act according to their evaluations. Because we are dependent beings, we can think accurately only if God enlightens us.
 - ii As fallen beings, we are not naturally open to God's instruction since it requires loss of control (i.e. admitting vulnerability). Instead of listening to God, we form our own conclusions about how to live effectively, fulfill our own longings, and make our world work.
- b. There are only 2 ways to think:
- i Wrong; sinfulness reflects foolishness
 - ii Right; righteousness reflects wisdom

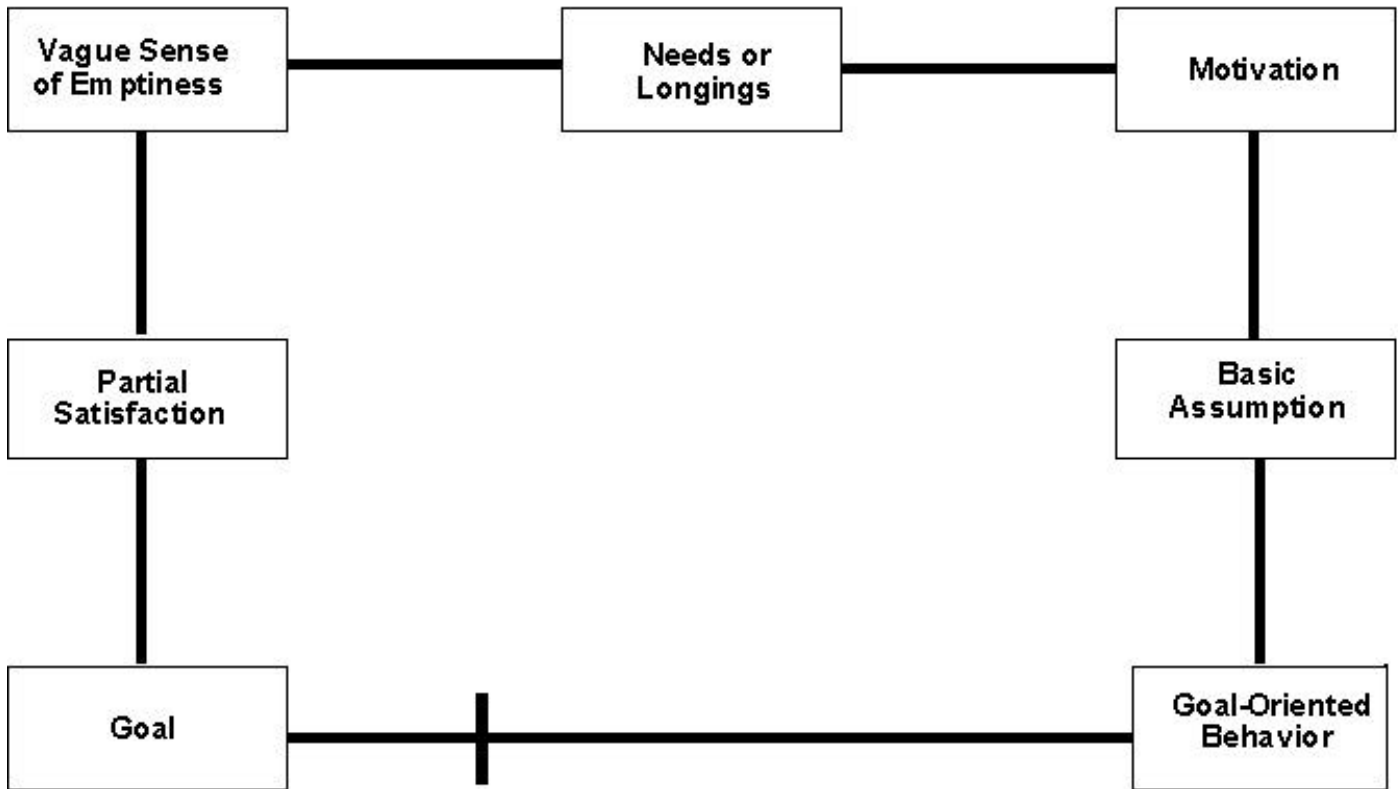
Prov. 22:15 - foolishness bound in heart of a child.

Prov. 12:15 - Way of a fool is right in his own eyes

Prov. 14:12 - Way that seems right to man ? death

Jer. 17:9 - Heart is deceitful and wicked.

- iii Our natural foolishness  choosing wrong thinking  wrong conclusions about how to live which *we* believe are correct.
 - iv The deceitfulness or out hearts causes us to believe a certain strategy will lead to life when it is leading directly to death. Deceitfulness shows up most clearly in how we relate to people, the most important part of our lives.
9. Man is a volitional being who chooses
Eph. 1:11 - Predestined
Phil. 2:12-13 - work out salvation w/ fear & trembling.
- a. As humans, we move in a direction toward an objective. Goals are set along the line of how we believe our thirst will be satisfied. We choose behaviors which we believe will lead us to our goals. All behavior moves us toward goals.
 - b. As dependent beings, we can choose right goals and behaviors only as God enlightens our understanding. Because we are fallen, we set foolish goals consistent with foolish understanding and pursue these goals with the purpose of finding fulfillment.
 - c. Because we are always striving toward some level of fulfillment (feeling okay, acceptable, adequate, etc.), we will tend (with our deceitful hearts) to deny goals which interfere with our good image of ourselves. When our goals are exposed, we deny those goals by saying that they are not our real goals. We generally are not aware of our denied goals, foolish understanding and denied longings.
 - d. When we deny the goals we are pursuing, we lose the awareness that what we are doing is actually a choice. A lot of behavior looks like it is beyond our control, but *that which feels compulsive is behavior in pursuit of a denied goal.*
10. Man is an emotional being who experiences
Jer. 31:20 & Is:63:15 - God feels
Job 30:27 - Man feels
John 1:33-35 - Christ feels
- i As dependent beings, we will subjectively experience good constructive emotions as we are in right relationship with God and our world.
 - ii Emotions are evaluated in several ways: constructive vs. destructive; pleasant vs. unpleasant
 - (1) Constructive emotions is consistent with and promotes right relationship with God. Because we are fallen, all constructive emotion is not pleasant. We now experience destructive emotions due to the Fall
(II Cor. 7:8-10)
 - (2) Destructive emotion (whether pleasant or unpleasant) moves us away from God and is inconsistent with Godly direction.
 - (3) We work very hard at always feeling pleasant emotion as opposed to constructive emotion. This priority weakens our commitment to live in dependence on Christ and it blunts our knowledge of our own sinfulness.
11. This understanding of our capacities leads us to a this model for addictions:



12. The route for true change
- a. True freedom from addictions can only be found as we find legitimate ways of meeting our deep longings. We need to measure our change in three areas:
 - i Behavior. No matter how compulsive you were, through God's power you can stop.
 - ii Identity. You can come to feel totally complete and at peace with who you are.
 - iii Cravings. Very substantial changes are possible, including a full and rich life. This means you can achieve control over your behaviors without doing the "white-knuckle," buck up and fight routine.
 - b. None of these are things you can deal with directly. Trying harder to feel differently about ourselves doesn't work and denying our cravings only sets us up for failures. In most cases nothing anyone says or simply trying harder will stop your behavior. We can't deal with these things head on.
 - c. We can deal with these things in another way; by getting to the issues that brought you to where you are and that are keeping you in it today.
13. These next weeks we will try to lead you to a place where you will allow certain things to happen in your life that can open you up to true change. There are three things involved here to:
- a. You will need to repent.
 - i Not just behavior, but that is important.
 - ii We're talking about the deeper sins. The process of sanctification for all Christians is one of discovering our sins and repenting of them—the discovery often the most difficult thing.
 - b. You will need healing
 - i There are things that need to happen that simply won't happen through your trying harder, gaining deeper insight, or whatever effort you put out. You are too deeply wounded. That's

- why it is good you are in a spiritual program.
- ii You will experience supernatural healing; some sudden, some less dramatic. We'll talk more about that in later lessons.
- c. You will need to grow up.
- i Addiction is an arrested development.
 - ii Because of your hurts and fears, you bailed out of certain parts of the growing up process. You need to resume the growth process that never took place.
14. You are looking at three paths right now: the one you are on, the one you want to be on, and the path God has planned for you. As you seek the Lord and His healing, as you allow Him to work in you, these three paths are going to come together, and you are going to find that every opportunity will be open to you to live as a whole and complete Christian man or woman.

Scripture Memory Verse:

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly."

Assignment for the Week:

1. Review your notebook, particularly the sections, "Getting the most out of New Directions" and Guidelines for Small Group Participation."
2. If you do not already have a "quiet time" for prayer and Scripture reading, try to start one.
3. Start thinking in terms of your addiction as taking place in three areas—Behavior, Identity, and Cravings. Try to evaluate where you see yourself today on the following scales:

BEHAVIOR:

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| OUT OF CONTROL | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | GODLY |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|

IDENTITY:

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| DISTORTED | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | CONTENTED |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|

CRAVINGS:

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| ALWAYS PRESENT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | NEVER PRESENT |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|