

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

3/12/17

Text: Psalm 119:25-32 & Galatians 6:9-10

Title: The Seven Deadly Sins: Sloth

Teacher: Stan McMahan

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Stan continued our series on the Seven Deadly Sins with the sin of Sloth. Rather than simply being about laziness, the sin of sloth is a lack of care and love for God and our neighbor. We are called to love the LORD with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor. But we fail to do both because we lack the motivation of God in our hearts. We either grow weary and try to escape because loving is too hard; or we fill up our life with busyness, and we forget and have no passion to love God or our neighbor. The solution, as Stan put it, is that God would enlarge or free our heart so that we could love and do good, motivated by our amazement at the promises of God's love in Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

- (Stan said in our sinfulness we make excuses to not love God and our neighbor. We may think we have good reasons, but ultimately we realize that we want all the benefits of God and the people around us without allowing him to change us, and without having to sacrifice.)*

 - Who are the first people to suffer when you're too weary or busy to love? (How would God ask you to repent to them? What change is needed?)**
- (Stan talked about how our culture makes it hard to love. He said we live in a world that asks, "why do you need God?", when the truth is that without God we are incapable of loving. And, in our culture, we love the idea of love for what we **receive**, rather than what we **give**. We ask "what's in it for me?".)*

 - How have you used your relationship with God or with people to benefit you?**
 - What would it practically look like for your main concern in every relationship to be benefiting and loving God and People?**
- (Stan said the Paul and the Psalmist could love and do good for God and their neighbor in this way because they were "Schooled in the Art of Amazement in God." The only way that's possible is for God to do a work in our hearts and for us to be willing to change.)*

 - Ask God to enlarge and free your heart to be amazed at Him and joyfully delighted to see life as a series of opportunities to love God and your neighbor.**

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A.C.T.S.

(Take some time to list 1 or 2 things in each of these areas then spend some time in prayer, confession and worship as a group.)

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Praise God for His attributes and Actions?

Worship God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for His untiring, self-giving love. Praise Him that He is always generous and has enriched all of creation (including us) with His wealth!

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of?

How have you failed to care about God and what He loves? Do you tend to quit or escape when loving God and others becomes difficult? Confess your sloth to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and fill you with His strength to love.

3. THANKSGIVING

What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?

Give thanks to Jesus for enduring the high cost of loving you by paying your debt on the cross. Praise Him that God's love is poured into your heart through His life, death, and resurrection (Romans 5:5)!

4. SUPPLICATION

In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to revive your heart and give you the strength to run after God and love others even when it's costly.

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through today's passage(s)?

Who do you know that struggles to find meaning or purpose in life? Pray for them, asking God to reveal Himself to them as the highest of all joys.