

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

4/9/17

Text: Philippians 3:12-21

Title: The Seven Deadly Sins: Gluttony

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 concluded our series on the Seven Deadly Sins with the sin of Gluttony. Stan said Gluttony is not about having an appetite that's too big, but an appetite that's too small for the Creator. God made everything in his creation to be enjoyed and to help us see and love him. In our sinfulness we fill our bellies and our lives with the created things as an end in themselves, rather than using them as an opportunity to know and love God, and so we live empty and dissatisfied. The cure for our gluttony isn't a greater will-power or self-denial; it's finding our joy and contentment in a greater power than this world. Jesus, as Savior and Lord, gives us a heavenly citizenship, in which we can anticipate the greater meal to come in heaven, and we can be content in any situation, because our deepest desires are satisfied in Him.

Reflection Questions:

- (Stan Quoted John Piper who wrote that if you don't have a strong desire for God "it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because you have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Your soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great." We either have too much of it, or we think too much about it.)*

 - What things do you give a lot of time to or really enjoy doing (or eating, watching, playing, exercising...etc.)? What do you think you've filled your belly with that's left you without room for God's glory?**
 - What do you love about God's creation, and how can you worship Him for it?**
- (Stan said we often live like the kids in the Willy Wonka movies. We think the whole point of candy (or pleasures in this world) is for our self-indulgence; when in reality, the whole point of food (and creation) is to build relationship with people and with God.)*

 - What things of this world have you used to satisfy yourself rather than build relationship with people or love God more for what he's made?**
- (C.S. Lewis wrote, "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world." Jesus makes us citizens of heaven, so we can see and love God more because of everything he's made, and be completely content because our desire is satisfied in Him.)*

 - How would your life look different if knowing Jesus more was your highest priority, and you were content in every situation? (Pray for His help!)**

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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 creating everything good and richly giving us all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). If creation is so good, how much better must the creator be?

2. CONFESSION

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

How have you lived to serve your own appetite? How have you sought to satisfy your spiritual hunger with material things? Confess your self-indulgence to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to help you hunger and thirst for His righteousness.

3. THANKSGIVING

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

Give thanks to Jesus for “making Himself nothing” in order to make you His own. Reflect on His self-denial to take the cross that you deserved so that you could share in His kingdom.

4. SUPPLICATION

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

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you pursue spiritual fitness with all the strength He supplies. Pray for more insight into the blessings of being a citizen of heaven!

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through this sermon?

Who do you know that lives as if material things were all that mattered? Ask God to open their eyes to how destructive it is to ignore Him.