

VICE

HABITS OF SIN

INTRO / PRIDE

WEEK 1 JANUARY 14, 2018

OPENING REMARKS

- Addressing sin is complicated.
- Addressing sin is painful.
- Addressing sin is personal.
- Addressing sin is critical.
- Questions are welcomed. Please hold comments to the end (time permitting).
- Anonymous questions welcomed.

WHY A CLASS ON VICE?

- We are on the path of following Jesus. Sin leads us astray. Our vices are well-worn side-trails that detour us again and again.
- We are too frequently comfortable in our vices.
- Our vices compromise our mission.
- We are instructed to put to death our sin. (Col 3:5-6)
 - **"Be killing sin or it will be killing you."**

- John Owen
Of The Mortification of Sin in Believers, 1656

REMEMBER...

God is not about making bad people good...
....but making dead people alive.

Ravi Zacharias (paraphrased)

CLASS GOALS

- Followers of Jesus will better understand and recognize the habits of sin in our lives (Eph 5:13).
- The Spirit will bring conviction (godly grief) leading to repentance and salvation, but NOT shame (worldly grief) which leads to death (1 Cor 7:8-10).
- Followers of Jesus will find themselves better enabled to battle vice, the schemes of the devil (Eph 6:10-18).
- Followers of Jesus, walking with the Spirit, finding freedom from vice, with gentleness, will increasingly bear one another's burdens (Gal 5:13-6:2).
- The gospel of Jesus will be thus proclaimed and taught with openness unhindered (Acts 28:31).

DEFINITIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miss the mark, fail to image God, unbelief • VICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruptive, dehumanizing habits of sin • IDOLATRY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to, exaltation of anything other than Triune God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLOURISH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faithfully bear the image of God • VIRTUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habits of moral excellency, flourishing • WORSHIP (TRUE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to, exaltation of Triune God
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WHAT IS PRIDE?

- To be for [self]
- Self-orientation, self-esteem



WHAT IS PRIDE?

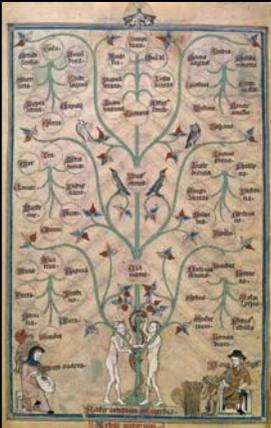
- To be for [self]
- Self-orientation, self-esteem, self-dependence
- Worship the idol of self (ego-idolatry)
- "casting off the fatherhood of God" (Russell Moore)
- Antithesis of meekness, humility

**Pride goes before destruction,
and a haughty spirit before a fall.**

Proverbs 16:18

PRIDE & THE VICICES

- **Evagrius of Pontus** (346-399): desert father; "eight wicked thoughts"
- **Gregory the Great** (540-604): Pride is the root of the vices; vices to seven.
- **Thomas Aquinas** (1225-1274): list as presented in this class.



TREE OF VICE

- **Pride** = root / trunk
- **Vices** = branches
 - 1) **Envy**
 - 2) **Vainglory**
 - 3) **Sloth (Acedia)**
 - 4) **Greed (Avarice)**
 - 5) **Anger (Wrath)**
 - 6) **Gluttony**
 - 7) **Lust (Erotic desire)**
- **Sins** = leaves

HOW SERIOUS IS PRIDE?

- "...the essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride."
- "Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind."
- "...pride always means enmity—it *is* enmity. And not only enmity between man and man, but enmity to God."
- "...pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense."

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (Ch. 8, "The Great Sin")

PRIDE: PAUL'S REMEDY

So **let no one boast in men**. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and **you are Christ's**, and Christ is God's. **This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards** of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is **required of stewards that they be found faithful**. But with me **it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court**. In fact, **I do not even judge myself**. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. **It is the Lord who judges me**.

PRIDE: PAUL'S REMEDY

Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that **none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another**. For who sees anything different in you? **What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?** (1 Cor 3:21 – 4:7)

PRIDE FADES

Self adoration
Self forgetfulness
 Self reprobation

PRIDE FADES

Self adoration
Self forgetfulness
 Self reprobation

PRIDE FADES

God adoration
 +
 Sin reprobation



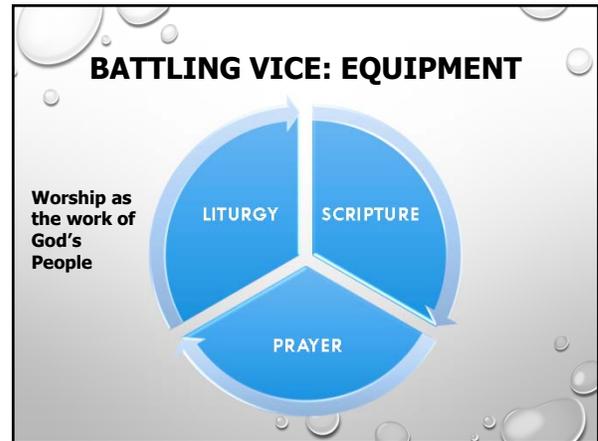


BATTLING VICE: OPERATIONAL PLANNING

1. "But now that you have been **set free from sin** and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the **free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" (Rom 6:22-23)
2. "...**work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling, for it is **God who works in you...**" (Phil 2:12-13 partial)

BATTLING VICE: OPERATIONAL PLANNING

3. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand against the schemes of the devil.** For we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, **against the spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly places." (Eph 6:10-12)



BATTLING VICE: TACTICS

	FLEE	IDENTITY
	TALK BACK	VICTORIES
	REMEMBER	GOD'S PROMISES
	CONFESS	DEATH
REACTIVE		
	LORD'S SUPPER	
	WORK	
	COMMUNITY	PERSEVERE
PROACTIVE	SABBATH REST	

BATTLING VICE: OBJECTIVES

To what end?

"Not that I have already obtained [resurrection] or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Phil 3:12-14

BATTLING VICE: OBJECTIVES

Repentance.

"Not that I have already obtained [resurrection] or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead**, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Phil 3:12-14

BATTLING VICE: OBJECTIVES

Keep fighting.

"Not that I have already obtained [resurrection] or am already perfect, but I **press on** to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward** to what lies ahead, I **press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Phil 3:12-14

BATTLING VICE: OBJECTIVES

New Creation.

"Not that I have already obtained [resurrection] or am already **perfect**, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead**, I press on toward **the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**"

Phil 3:12-14



A faithful dog knows his Master has many dogs, each serving a different purpose, and that his Master will provide him uniquely what is required for his tasks.

BATTLING ENVY



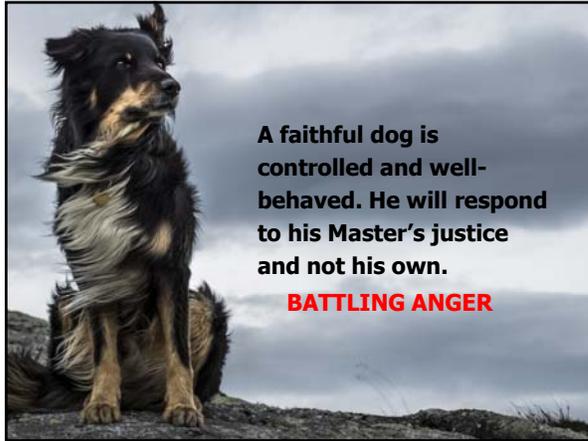
A faithful dog cares not what others think of her if her Master is pleased.

BATTLING VAINGLORY



A faithful dog knows he has a job to do and does it. A faithful dog enjoys the rest his Master provides.

BATTLING SLOTH



"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:14-16

GRACE TO HELP IN A TIME OF NEED

Rich Lanning	Colleen Grogan
Michael Lyons	Sharon Schatz
Rick Schatz	Erin Lyons
Mark Verhagen	Stephanie Langdon
Steve Langdon	

"We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea."

C. S. Lewis, *Weight of Glory*

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

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- Moore R, *Tempted and Tried*, 2011.
- Piper J, *Battling Unbelief*, 2007.