

(ABC's that threaten Christian living)

Yearning And Lust

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986, (Rev. 99)

Timeless Truths (Why should I control my yearning and lust?)

1. God created mankind with the ability to "desire." Since the fall of man, there have been "good desires" (i.e. 1 Tim. 3:1; 1 Thess. 2:17; Phil. 1:23) and "evil desires" (Rom. 7:7; 13:9; 1 Tim. 6:9; Gal. 5:20; 2 Pt. 2:10). God wants the Christian to control both the types of desire and the focus of his desires.
2. The world's system, which is patterned after fallen Adam, appeals to mankind's sinful nature through various avenues of "desire" (Gr. "epithumia"), 1 Jn. 2:15-17.
3. Those who do not know God allow "desire" (Gr. "pathos") to control their passions, 1 Thess. 4:5. They serve both "desire" (Gr. "epithumia") and "pleasure" (Gr. "hedone"), Tit. 3:3. They also spend most of their lifetime seeking to fulfill their "desires" (Gr. "epithumia") 1 Pt. 4:3.
4. Fulfilling evil "desires"(Gr. "boulomai") can lead to other more harmful "desires" (Gr. "Epithumia"), 1 Tim. 6:9. These "desires" (Gr. epithumia") can lead to other sins, 2 Tim. 3:6; 2 Pt. 2:18; Ja. 1:14-15. These "desires" (Gr. "epithumia") can also lead to slavery to sin, Rom. 6:12. These evil "desires" (Gr. "hedone") do have a penalty associated with them, 2 Pt. 2:13.
5. Strife and conflict come from one's "desire" (Gr. "hedone") Ja. 4:1; and "lust" (Gr. "epithumia"), Ja. 4:2.
6. Christians are to consider the flesh's "passions" (Gr. "pathos") and "desires" (Gr. "epithumia") for evil as inoperative (i.e. crucified), Gal. 5:24; and not to conform themselves to their former "desires" (Gr. "epithumia"), 1 Pt. 1:14.

Practical Prescriptions (How can I control my yearning and lust?)

1. Abandon your involvement with and connection to evil desires!

"And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires," Gal. 5:24.

"Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry," Col. 3:5.

2. Alter your lifestyle so not to provide an opportunity for evil desire!

"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts," Rom. 13:14.

"...As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct," 1 Pt. 1:14-15.

3. Avoid following and fulfilling evil desires!

"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart," 2 Tim. 2:22.

"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age," Tit. 2:12.

"Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul," 1 Pt. 2:11.

4. Adhere to the Holy Spirit's direction and God's will!

"I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh," Gal. 5:16.

"...That he no longer should live the rest of his life in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God," 1 Pt. 4:2.