

# *Your Appetites Will Kill You*

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Proverbs 23:1-3 When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.

Matthew 18:8-9 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Philippians 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

- I. Appetite and desire are two words we need to consider.
  - A. Appetite speaks more of a desire of the flesh for gratification, either of the body or the mind.
  - B. There are natural appetites and there are artificial appetites.
  - C. Having an appetite for food and drink is a natural appetite.
  - D. Having a desire for tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or anything that is not life-sustaining and beneficial to the body or mind is an artificial appetite.
  - E. God gave us natural desires and they are not sinful in themselves, but temptation to sin always involves our natural desires.
  - F. The first sin on earth happened when Eve developed an appetite for that which God said would bring sure and certain death.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

- G. If she had not went where the tree was, and gazed upon it while the devil whispered in her ear, she would not have desired to eat of it.
    - H. So our desires can manipulated and directed by outside influences.
    - I. This is not anything new or unknown; it is the foundation of all advertisements and schemes of lucre-loving promoters of vice and evil since the beginning of the world.
    - J. So knowing this fact and having this understanding, we should take up arms against whatever would affect our appetites and desires.
- II. To be ungoverned in our appetites is to be ungoverned in our soul and spirit.
  - A. If we cannot control our appetites, and have no stops there, it is a very strong indication that we have no stops when it comes to other moral issues.
  - B. To live godly and be holy in this present world is to exercise our appetites and desires within the bounds God made them for.

- C. Having control over our appetites and desires is part of our submission to God as Lord of our life.
- D. To show no restraint in any matter of fleshly indulgence in to show a great lack of moral character.
- E. It also shows an enslavement to carnal appetites, which the Scripture clearly states to be an unregenerate state.

Romans 8:6-7 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

- F. An unrestrained appetite will lead to unnatural desires, and an appetite for things that are increasingly unclean and more ungodly.
- G. The doorway into that way of death is described repeatedly in the Bible as “dainties.”

Proverbs 23:3 Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.

- H. The word means “nice; pleasing to the palate; of exquisite taste; delicious; as dainty food.”

Psalm 141:4 Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties.

- I. It is not that we are not to enjoy our food, or that we are not to ever have anything that tastes extra good, or rich, or sweet.
  - 1. God made it so that our food tastes good, and not disgusting.
  - 2. He meant for it to be a pleasure for us to eat our food, and not a misery.
- J. But there is a great danger that is first manifested or noticed at the table.
  - 1. If a person cannot control himself there he will not control his other appetites, and will be easily enticed into unnatural desires.
  - 2. And this world is full of enticement to unnatural and wicked desires, and these children are as vulnerable to them as we allow them to be.
- K. We can do a lot to influence what the children desire, and the appetites they have.
  - 1. Be careful what you allow them to be introduced to that they will develop an appetite for.
  - 2. Someday you may be able to trace the beginning of their darkened mind and soul to that thing you introduced them to.
- L. There is nothing more disgusting and degrading that watching someone who cannot control their appetite.
  - 1. If it is at the table we all look on with disgust at someone who never misses an opportunity to eat, and to be the first in line, and to grab the best for himself before anyone else.
  - 2. If it is other desires that a person is given to we also are disgusted with them, such as drugs and alcohol, chewing and spitting tobacco, etc.
  - 3. If it is immoral desires they are given over to and will not control their appetite we put them in prison.
  - 4. All start at the same place, and that is a lack of control of natural desires.
- M. So it is very important in the training of children to teach them to control their appetites and desires, and to realize when they are being tempted to develop a desire for something outside of the will of God and his design for us.
  - 1. This is as important for all of us as it is for the children.
- N. It is a very difficult challenge in a world that promotes self-indulgence to the extreme.

1. It is almost considered abuse now if we deny a child anything he wants, or anyone, for that matter.
- O. The warning here is to put a knife to our throat.
1. This means to realize the danger of allowing our appetite to rule us – eat as if you have a knife to your throat.
  2. Realize that every trap and snare the devil or men have relies on the lack of control of a carnal appetite.
- P. Cultivate a habit of moderation and restraint, instead of a habit of indulgence.
- Q. Be very careful that the “dainties” of this world, whether food, drink, entertainment, fashion, fad, comfort, ease, pleasure, do not draw you into the snare of chasing after carnal or mental satisfaction.
- R. Just think of it: every drunkard started with one drink; every drug addict started with one hit, or snort, or one pill; every person who is unrestrained in their morals started by crossing that threshold one time, and after that it just didn’t matter any more.
- S. So start with the basic natural desires that God gave us and arm yourself against them, lest they take control of you and enslave you.