

The Appetites of the Mind

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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.

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. Last week we focused mostly on the appetites concerning the flesh and carnal desires, but now we are going to focus on the realm of the mind and how appetites control our thoughts.
 - A. The first time the devil tempted a human being he did it by convincing Eve that if it tasted good and looked good, then it was good for her, and therefore to be desired.
 - B. The devil's basic lie is that we should trust our physical senses moment by moment.
 - C. This is exactly how people live their lives; if it hurts they back away, but if it looks good and feels good, they proceed to taste of it.
 - D. The lie is processed in the mind of the one who hears it.

1. If the danger were obvious in the lie everyone would back away from it.
 2. But the danger is always hidden by the desire that is aroused in the heart at the thought of its fulfillment.
- E. Temptation is always an appeal to the mind to set aside truth while under the influence of some desire that has been aroused in your heart by the sight of, or the thought of, some object.
- III. We indulge our carnal desires in thought before we ever indulge them in the flesh.
- A. We all know that people go much farther in their thoughts than they ever do in their actions.
 - B. So there is the imagination, which is the playground of the mind.
 - C. So we must examine ourselves concerning the appetites of our minds.
 - D. We all know what food we like, and which dainties are our weakness in that matter.
 - E. More important than that, though, are the thoughts of our heart; where do our weaknesses lie there?
 - F. As we mentioned last week, food is the weakness of a lot of people.
 1. As they are eating lunch they are wondering what they will have for supper.
 2. So their thoughts are obsessed with eating and indulging their taste for food.
 - G. Others are obsessed with other physical appetites and live continually in that realm of lust and seeking an opportunity to indulge it.
 1. This is the foremost enticement that is being forced on everyone by the present world system.
 2. The two dominate sins of the last days before Jesus comes are fornication and sorcery; drugs and sex.
 - H. Still others have minds that are focused on fear.
 1. They are always looking for more reasons to be afraid by scanning the news and by feeding their mind all the bad and wicked deeds of others.
 2. They are obsessed with their body and think every pain is the first sign of death for them.
 - I. Some people are consumed with gain and making money and their thoughts never wander far from their covetousness.
 - J. There are people who just focus on all their bad luck and failures and losses and stay in on a merry-go-round of despair and discouragement.
 - K. There are people who are hooked on foolishness and all their mind thinks about is something funny or witty to say or do.
 - L. There are people who are simply malevolent; bad, mean, wicked, who spend the most of their thoughts on how to do someone hurt.
 - M. We could go on and on, but the question at hand is to each one of us: What kind of appetites do I have in my thought life?
 1. That secret place of mine where no one sees or knows what is going on?
 - N. We are drawn to thoughts in our minds just like we are drawn to food when we are hungry, or to other fleshly desires.
 - O. As our eyes are directed to an object by the devil and his helpers in this world, our thoughts are directed by them, also.
 - P. Once we see an object the image of it is forever filed away in our memory, so from that point the devil does not have to put the actual object in front of our eyes anymore, he can just remind us of it and we see it again.

- Q. This is the power of sin and the answer as to why it has so effectively destroyed the human race.
 - R. This is why there was no escaping once Adam and Eve had eaten of that tree.
 1. The damage done could never be undone.
 2. They crossed line that could never allow a return to how it was before.
- IV. So, just as ungoverned physical appetites can destroy your physical health and bring shame, so ungoverned thoughts can destroy your soul.
- A. Godly people in the generations before us knew this truth and therefore taught their children and recognized boundaries and were conscious of where things lead, and had a broader view of things than just the present moment.
 - B. They understood and taught their children the value of hard things in life and not always having what you want, and how to say no to yourself.
 - C. They put a lot of thought and effort into training their children's minds to recognize the danger of selfishness, indulgence, pride, and rebellion against God's truth.
 - D. Sadly, their children and grandchildren failed to follow their example and raised generations of indulgent, proud, spoiled, ungodly, disrespectful, irreverent, people who knew not the Lord, and are about to bring about the judgement of God.
 - E. We must get back to the knowledge and principles that the Word of God teaches us about the discipline of our appetites, both physical and mental.
 - F. We must learn how to possess our vessel in sanctification and honor.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

- G. We must learn how to put a guard on our thoughts and keep our mind from being hijacked by the evil influences all around us.

Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

1. War is being waged against our minds and the truth that we know from the Word of God.
 2. That weapons the devil uses against us in this war are our own appetites and desires.
 3. He constantly appeals to our mind to set aside what we know to be God's moral law in order to satisfy our own appetites, which are summed up in the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.
- H. We must learn this lesson and keep it close at hand in our thoughts as we deal with this daily battle within ourselves.

1 Peter 4:1-2 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: