

1 2 **How many people ...**

- in the Bible or in your personal experience are PERFECT?

3 4 **Did God ever call anyone perfect?**

- Noah (Genesis 6:9)
 - *Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.*
- Job (Job 1:1)
 - *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.*
- David (1 Kings 11:4)
 - *...his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.*
- Asa (1 Kings 15:14)
 - *But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.*

5 **Perfect ≠ perfection**

- Perfection
 - The absence of evil; found only in Christ
 - Paul never attained it (Philippians 3:12)
 - 1 John 1:8 – If we say we have perfection, then we are lying

6 **Meet “The Perfects”**7 **Perfect**

- Perfect = “Come to full maturity;” “to be full-grown with character and maturity”
- Ephesians 4:12-14
 - Equipping, complete furnishing
- James 1:2-4 – Complete; not lacking
- Philippians 3:14-15—Mature; marching toward goal of Christlikeness
- John 17:23—Christ prayed for us to be mature
- Colossians 1:28—Goal of ministry is to present mature, replicating Christians to Christ.

8 **Ephesians 4:12-14**

- *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

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9 **James 1:2-4**

- *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*
- *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*
- *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

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10 **Philippians 3:14-15**

- *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*
- *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*
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11 **John 17:23**

- In Jesus' High Priestly prayer
- *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

12 **How do you get started?**

- Continually exercise your senses to discern the difference between good and evil.
 - Hebrews 5:13-14—*For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*
- We must subject every aspect of our lives to the authority of God's Word and determine whether we are in God's will or not.

13 **A deceitful heart hides impurities**

- Jeremiah 17:9—*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*
- A person with a deceitful heart creates a category of pleasures and calls them "amoral" and does not subject those things to the light of God's Word or the light of our conscience.

14 **But when God created...**

- Men create a category of things devoid of moral qualities (amoral) and say these things are neither good nor evil.
- But there was no such thing when God created. Every time He paused to reflect on His creation it says, "*behold, the thing it was very good*" (Genesis 1:31).
- Even Satan did not suggest a category of "amoral"—only "good and evil" (Genesis 3:5).

15 **The judgment seat of Christ**

- 2 Corinthians 5:10—*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*
 - Notice there is no mention of the amoral or the neutral. With God, no such category exists.

16 **The uncircumcised heart**

- Hiding tainted or polluted activities under the classification of "amoral" —away from the light of God's Word—is a condition known as an "uncircumcised heart."
 - It is a heart that has refused to cut away that with which God is displeased.
 - It is a heart which rationalizes and justifies holding on to compromise.
 - It is a heart which takes pleasure in the things that violate God's desire for holiness in our lives.

17 **Circumcision of the heart**

- Romans 2:29—*"In the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter, whose praise is not of men, but of God."*

- Jews perverted the idea of circumcision to be an external ritual.
 - Paul pointed out that Abraham was justified before he was circumcised (Romans 4:9-11).

18 **God wants a circumcised heart**

- *Circumcise therefore...your heart and be no more stiff-necked* (Deuteronomy 10:16).
- *And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live* (Deuteronomy 30:6).
- *Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings* (Jeremiah 4:4).

19 **God wants places of worship with circumcised hearts**

- *And thou shalt say to the rebellious, even to the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O ye house of Israel, let it suffice you of all your abominations, In that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken my covenant because of all your abominations* (Ezekiel 44:7).
- God wants no compromise when we come to worship Him.

20 **A circumcised (holy) heart loves!**

- God does not want us to limit our love to a small circle but to the whole world.
- When we harbor sins within, our capacity for genuine love is diminished.
 - *And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end He may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*

21 **Why was there a sign of circumcision?**

- God blessed Abraham to become the father of a great nation (Genesis 12:1-3).
- Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness (Genesis 15:6).
- Then God appears to Abraham and tells him: *"I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect"* (Genesis 17:1).
 - After this, God gives circumcision as a special sign to be carried out by Abraham's descendants.
 - A reminder that following God means purging our lives of what does not please Him.

22 **Why did God nearly kill Moses?**

- Exodus 4:20—After meeting God in the burning bush, Moses took his wife and sons and returned to Egypt.
- Exodus 4:22-23—God tells Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell them to let Israel go or Pharaoh's firstborn would die.
- Exodus 4:24—God nearly kills Moses.
 - Moses had failed to circumcise his own sons.
 - Moses was not keeping God's covenant (Genesis 17:10).
 - Moses could not represent God without wholehearted commitment to the Lord.

23 **How are we to be perfect?**

- Enlarge our hearts to love the whole world for whom Christ died (John 3:16).

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- Benefit: Perfect love casts out the fear of men (1 John 4:18).
- Sincere love breaks down the walls others build around themselves.
- Greet more than just your friends (Matthew 5:47).
 - Be the light of the world; brighten someone's day with a smile.
- Control our words (James 3:2).

24 **Practical applications**

- We must expose all secret desires and activities to God's truth and the washing of His Word.
- We must quit excusing our conformity to the world and realize God has commanded the opposite (Romans 12:1,2; 1 John 2:16).
- We must wash our hearts by saturating them with God's Word (John 15:3; Ephesians 5:25-27)
- We must make an effort to greet and love those we don't even know.

25 **Questions...**

- What kinds of sins do men call "amoral?"
- What kinds of things do we allow in our lives under the pretense that it is "amoral?"
- Are we like Moses – called to a position of leadership but not wholly obeying God?
- How are we doing on meditating on God's Word to cleanse our hearts?

26 **Actions?**

- What should we do about it this week?