



WEEK 2: CLEARING THE CLUTTER

January 9, 2022

Ephesians 5:15–16 - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,
¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Matthew 3:1–3 - In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

The Bible is clear regarding HABITS that God has declared "sinful"

1 John 3:3–10 - And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (See also Matthew 7:21-23; John 14:15; Romans 2:6-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Titus 1:16; Hebrews 5:9; James 2:26; 1 John 2:3-6, 3:24; Revelation 22:12-15)

Matthew 5:30 - "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell."

But what about habits that the Bible does not explicitly declare to be "sinful"? What are the principles in play?

Romans 14:23b - ... whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

1 Corinthians 10:23–24 - "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

An example to examine: Cigarette/Junk Food/Fast Food HABIT

What's the danger? Wasteful Financial Stewardship

Luke 16:10–13 - "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

What's another danger? Cutting short the longevity or effectiveness of your usefulness to others

Philippians 1:21–27a - For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ

Is this radical? Maybe... but both Jesus Christ and His enemies are radical in their focus, sacrifice, and efforts

Revelation 3:15–16 - "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth."