

FOREVER HOME - Part 2

The Dining Room

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Part of Forever Home

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Many folks take the first step into the Christian life by making a public commitment or profession of faith, but then they never discover ____ Christ has for them.

When we become a Christian, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ himself, comes to live in us, so that he's always with us, always going where we go, ____ what we see and think.

Does everything we ____, everything the culture around us lifts up as valuable - do all those *things* really bring us contentment, fulfillment and joy?

It's so ___ to get caught up in our wants and desires, whether it's things or a relationship with a particular person, or a job, or a particular place to live.

Wants and desires aren't necessarily bad things, but when we make them ultimate things, things that give us identity, we've set ourselves up to experience failure, because no ___ can replace God in our lives.

I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods....

—Exodus 20:2-5 (NLT)

A god or idol is anything that seems to give our lives ___ meaning and purpose and identity.

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.

—Augustine

There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.

—Blaise Pascal

Nothing can ultimately satisfy what our hearts are looking for except the ___ who actually created us, the Lord God, as revealed in Jesus Christ.

We are constantly confronted by a world that calls us to trust in anything and everything ___ God.

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and

pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

—1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)

God created everything there is - ____ aren't inherently bad or evil.

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

—Genesis 1:31 (NLT)

When we try to put our wants and desires in the place of our ultimate need - in having a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ - we may find momentary happiness, but we'll never find ____ joy and peace, because nothing created can do that!

We're called to seek the ____ of every good gift, of the things of this world, and not the gifts, the things themselves.

It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

—C.S. Lewis

God's Will - His desire and plan for our lives - is that we ____ Him and experience His best, rather than settling for the lesser things of this world.

Jesus: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

—Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth 'thrown in': aim at Earth and you will get neither.

—C.S. Lewis

*Put first things first and we get second things thrown in:
put second things first and we lose both first and second
things.*

—C.S. Lewis

Jesus: *“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be
done, on earth as it is in heaven.’”*

—Matthew 6:9-10 (ESV)

Jesus: *“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me;
yet not my will, but yours be done.”*

—Luke 22:42 (ESV)

**In the dining room of our lives, if we are chasing after
anything that isn't God's Will for our lives, we will ultimately
be ____.**

**90-95% of doing God's Will is already spelled out for us in
the ____.**

*Jesus: “... I came so they can have real and eternal life,
more and better life than they ever dreamed of.”*

—John 10:10 (Message)

Next Week: The Living Room