

Personalities of Sin

I. We sin in characteristic ways through the components of personality.

We manifest our sin in different ways partly because we have different personalities. We are wired differently. All humanity is made in the image of God to reflect Him in our thoughts, acts, and feelings since our personal resemblance to God is expressed through mind, will, and emotion – the components of personhood. While the entire person is involved in sin, we tend to emphasize one of the components over the others.

II. Our personalities are developed by both nature and nurture.

A. By nature, we sin intellectually, volitionally, or emotionally.

B. By nurture we emulate what we observed and experienced.

Examples:

- A boisterous and chaotic home
- A hypocritical “Christian” home
- A people-pleasing home
- A condescending, critical home
- An anxious, worried home

C. We bring these habits into our Christian walk.

III. Therefore, we all need a “baggage check” to identify the characteristic ways we sin:

*With regard to your former way of life, put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made **new in the attitude of your minds**; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

*Therefore each of you must **put off falsehood** and speak truthfully ... “In your anger do not sin.” Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry ... Anyone who has been stealing must **steal no longer**, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need ...*

*Get rid of all **bitterness**, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:22-32)*

- “Putting off” is a continual pursuit
- Thought (“the attitude of your minds”) is foundational
- We sin in thought but also in deed (speaking, stealing) and feeling (bitterness)