

Dangers Men Face - Part 2

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I. Sins that plague most men.

A. Anger.

1. Demonstrated in silent rebellion or explosions.
2. Do not be quickly provoked. (Ecclesiastes 7:9)
3. Anger is hasty. (Proverbs 29:11, 22)
4. Effects of anger.
 - a. Causes tension.
 - b. Engenders conflict.
 - c. Hurts those that are closest to us.
 - d. Causes guilt.
 - e. Breaks relationships.
 - f. Intimidates and frightens our children.
5. If anger is contained...
 - a. It will give you ulcers.
 - b. It derails spiritual growth.
 - c. It affects our entire outlook on life.
 - d. It robs us of joy.
6. Consequences.
 - a. You may need to ask forgiveness.
 - b. You may need to seek out the cause, and then ask God to change you.

B. Pride.

1. One of the root sins for men (women express it differently).

2. To fear the Lord is to hate evil. (Proverbs 8:13)
3. The unfaithful are destroyed by their pride. (Proverbs 11:2)
4. Wisdom is found by those who take advice. (Proverbs 13:10)
5. Several kinds of pride.
 - a. Pride of person - based upon who you are and what you have accomplished.
 - b. Pride of possessions.
 - c. Pride of position.
6. The risk.
 - a. It will put you in danger of God's anger. (Proverbs 16:12)
 - 1) Becomes the root of sexual sin.
 - 2) Becomes the root of conflict, etc.
 - b. It brings disgrace.
7. The process of coming out of this.
 - a. Humility.

II. Four step process of dealing with any of these sins.

A. Confession.

B. Repentance. (1 John 1:9)

1. Involves:

- a. A deep sense of having offended God.
- b. A clear sense of turning and changing.

C. Healing (a process).

1. Time is a great healer, but it is not sufficient.
2. You need the Word of God and...

D. Accountability.

1. Dealing with sin is not a one person issue in most cases.

III. Accountability.

A. Sin like a cancer needs to be detected early.

B. After early detection, you treat it immediately.

C. Accountability is not keeping you from sin—you can pull the wool over anyone's eyes.

1. The purpose is to encourage people to walk in the light so that you may become more Christ-like. It is not merely about battling some issue of sin.
2. The idea of accountability is not to ask a rote set of questions; it is intended to grow close to someone so that they can recognize when something is wrong.
3. We cannot live life alone.
4. We ought to consider whether we have appropriate accountability in our lives. You have to have someone that you trust. It takes time to build that trust.
5. Accountability occurs in couples and as individuals alone.

D. To deal with freezing.

1. The tragedy of life is not that men die, but what dies in man when he lives. - Albert Schweitzer
2. One of the things we do as believers is that we do not keep growing. Instead, we freeze in time.
3. Ways we freeze.
 - a. We freeze our minds.
 - 1) We need to have a mentality of change for the next generation.
 - 2) Do you find yourself trying to trump new ideas?
 - 3) Have you lost your curiosity?

4) The key is humility—someone always has something to teach us. Every person we meet has something to teach us.

E. To deal with confusion.

1. Everyone comes to a point of extreme confusion about what he is doing.
2. You need to nail down your calling and deal with the major life issues.
 - a. Everyone needs to have a calling, whether or not it is a major mission statement or not.
 - 1) You cannot be all things to all people.
3. You need to focus on your marriage.
4. You need to focus on your family.
5. You need to focus on your finances.
6. You need to focus on your work.
7. You need to focus on life issues and your constant need to surrender to God.

F. To deal with withdrawal.

1. Men when they get older withdraw from relationships.
2. The reality of life too easily leaves us.

IV. Question and answer session.

- A. Counseling and accountability is a great tool for communication between couples.
- B. Spiritual renewal takes time apart, preparation, getting away, and repetition.
- C. It helps to identify issues that are causing a lack of motivation.
- D. Example of cause of lack of motivation: one of the basic things that one may need is sleep.

Application questions.

1. How is pride a root of many other sins? What areas in your life does pride have a strangle-hold on? How can you apply the speaker's solution?

2. Why according to the speaker is accountability so essential to spiritual growth? How does he characterize true accountability?

3. How can you apply the four step process of dealing with sin to your accountability relationships? Are you authentic in those relationships? In what ways could you encourage better accountability in your life and the lives of others?
