



THE LIBERATED CHRISTIAN

PART 3: LIBERATED FROM SOCIETY'S YARDSTICK

Don't let the world squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remake you so your whole attitude of mind is changed. Rom. 12:2

SOCIETY'S YARDSTICK...

- Sets impossible _____
- Perpetuates an unending _____
- Elevates _____ over _____
- Promotes _____ over _____

FIVE STRATEGIES FOR LIBERATION

1. _____
Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. 1 Thess. 5:21-22

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Cor. 10:5

2. _____
Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. (That) is like chasing the wind. Eccl. 6:9 (NLT)

...Be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Heb. 13:5

3. _____
We do not dare classify or compare ourselves... (it) is not wise. 2 Cor. 10:12

4. _____
Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is. Romans 12:2 (NLT)

(Notes continued on next page)

The truth: The most important person in the universe _____!

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. ...Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you... Rom 12:2 (The Message)

5. _____
Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving message into the night. Philippians 2:15,16 (The Message)

Am I a _____ or a _____?

(Jesus) My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them ... As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. John 17:15,18

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self... unfading beauty... 1 Pet. 3:3

The world and its desires pass away, but the one who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:17

Bottom line: Am I devoting my energies to what _____?

DAILY MEDITATIONS

This week's memory verse: *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."* Psalm 139:23-24

Monday: Overview

Look back over your notes from last weekend's message. What point really jumped out as something you would like to apply to your life this week? Why?

Read Philippians 1:6. Remember, it's God who is masterminding the process of change in you, and He *will* complete the process - guaranteed! How can this help combat the discouragement that's apt to come when trying to change?

Thank God that He forgives you of your sins! Ask Him to help you remember that He is faithful to finish the work He's begun in you!

Tuesday: The Review Step

Read Psalm 139:23-24. Today, make David's prayer your own: Ask God help you do a "searching and fearless" moral inventory. It's best to do a written inventory for many reasons. Here are some tips and suggestions:

1. Spend some time in prayer and meditation asking God to show you places your life needs to change, or ways you've hurt others or yourself. Write down what God seems to show you. Begin by writing down the obvious sins you struggle with habitually, then write down other areas God speaks to you about:

2. Read Exodus 20:3-17 (The Ten Commandments). Reference your actions and attitudes to these principles. What is God showing you? Write it down.

Remember, the point is not to feel more guilty, but to uncover and admit sin - and then accept God's healing, freeing you of guilt and shame!

Thank Jesus that He died on the cross to forgive you for these specific sins and to help you with your struggles.

Wednesday: The Reveal Step

Only proceed to this step if you have already completed your moral inventory step from Tuesday's devotional. Read Psalm 32:1-5 and Proverbs 28:13. According to these verses, what are the results of confessing sin?

What are the results of holding it in instead of confessing?

According to James 5:16, is it really necessary to confess my sins specifically to another human being? Why is this hard for you?

Ask God to bring to your mind a trustworthy Christian to whom you can confess your moral inventory. Call this person up today and set up a time to do this "reveal step". When confessing be as specific as possible, and take as long as you need to. Thank God today for His love and care for you.

Thursday: The Ready Step

Only proceed to this step if you have already completed Tuesday's devotional. Read John 5:1-6. Why would Jesus ask this question of a sick man?

Is it really possible to be sick and still not want to be healed? Why wouldn't people want to be healed of their habits or addictions?

Which of the following reasons for not wanting to be healed do you struggle most with?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of the unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> Fear God will "make me weird" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy my habits too much | <input type="checkbox"/> Fear God is mean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fear God will demand too much of me | <input type="checkbox"/> Fear I'll lose my "edge" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't want to lose control of my life | <input type="checkbox"/> Healing is hard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of failing yet again | |

How ready are you to have God remove the character defects from your life?

Pray: Lord, please help me to be entirely ready to give you complete reign in my life - even over my pet sins! Thank you that you are willing to heal me. Make me willing to be healed.

Friday: Declared Not Guilty!

Read Romans 3:23-28. Sometimes when we think of the sins we need to overcome, we can be overloaded with guilt! We deeply long to somehow make up the difference between what we are and what we want to be.

What do these verses say about your guilt and God's provision?

Thank God today that you don't have to live a life burdened by guilt. Thank Him for His provision of Jesus to pay the penalty for your sins. Ask Him to strengthen you and your desire to set aside the habits that hold you back.

Saturday: Review

Please look over the devotions from this weekend and finish any you may have missed. Polish up on the memory verses too! Please pray for our services this weekend that will reach out to encourage and challenge those who attend. Thank you!