

Upstream Resolutions

Lessons for This Series

1. Jesus calls us to a lifestyle that is drastically different than the lifestyle of those who don't believe.
"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world." - Matthew 5:13,14
2. A follower of Christ whose lifestyle appears no different than a non-believer's must ask himself why this is so.
"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." - Romans 12:2
3. Living differently than the world is a choice that is empowered by the Holy Spirit — but it is still difficult.
"Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach." - Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Living Differently Than Those Who Don't Believe

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." - Romans 12:1,2

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." - Ephesians 4:22-24

- This lifestyle is a choice and is not automatic.

Two Weeks Ago We Learned About Three Attitudes

1. An attitude of awe and worship.
2. An attitude of humility.
3. An attitude of obedience.

Last Week We Learned...

To be faithful each day to three actions!

1. To renew your mind.
2. To pray continually.
3. To love unconditionally.

What IS A Resolution?

- The word resolved means to be firmly determined!

"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way." - Daniel 1:8

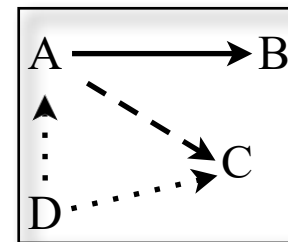
"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." - 1 Corinthians 2:2

1. I resolve to handle conflict Biblically!

- By overlooking an offense, if possible.
"A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense." - Pro. 19:11

- By acting quickly!
"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry..." - Ephesians 4:26

- By refusing to triangulate. This is sin!
"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over." - Matt. 18:15



- By refusing to participate in triangulation! This is sin!
- By being a peacemaker.
"I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel..." - Philippians 4:2-3

2. I resolve to give cheerfully.

- By giving what I can without reluctance.
"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7
- By working toward the goal of giving one tenth of my income.
"Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone." - Luke 11:42

3. I resolve to not worry about tomorrow.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" - Matthew 6:25-27

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." - Philippians 4:6

- You don't just choose to stop worrying. You focus your thoughts on other things and choose to trust God.

It's All A Matter of Trust!

1. To handle conflict Biblically shows that I trust God's pattern.
2. Giving cheerfully shows that I trust God's provision.
3. Refusing to worry shows that I trust God's providence.

You must now determine in which areas you will resolve to be faithful!

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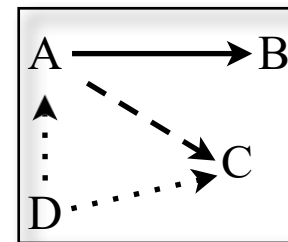
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