

Section: Doctrine of Sin (Hamartiology)

**TEACHING NOTES**

**Lesson 30**

**Question 34- “What is the sin of Idolatry?”**

Pastor Joshua Kirstine

Tonight we continue our study of the **Doctrine of Sin.**

**The theological word for the “Doctrine if Sin” is Hamartiology.**

(Greek: *hamartia*, "missing the mark”

It is the study of **sin** within Christian theology.

**Q34. What is the sin of idolatry?**

Idolatry is worshiping or finding hope, identity, significance, purpose, or security in anything other than in God, our Creator.

**1- Why do we exist?**

To rightly understand the sin of idolatry we must understand “**the question”.**

**Why are we here?**  **Why do we exist?**

**Why are you alive and breathing? Why are you on this earth?**

There are those that say, ***“Well, it’s really simple. I live to lead a good life and to love my family well and pass on what has been passed on to me and to do good.”*** Now.. that is not bad.. I think we would all agree that those things are part of the equation. Biblically though, those things are not the **“the ultimate reason why you are here.”**

**You & I were created for, designed for, wired for, given eyes for, given ears for, given a brain for, given the ability to touch, smell and taste, primarily, for one rightly aimed action.** Ready? **To worship.**

<>Now I don’t mean **singing.**

People in the church have narrowed the word ”worship” to only mean singing or bowing down.

See… worship is bigger than momentary **physical exultation of something**.

**I am talking about worshiping something with your life.** The way we do our day and make decisions and the things we enjoy and make time for... **all point to what we worship.**

**On this point our previous catechism answer is:**

**Q15. Why did God make us?**

God made us to glorify Him, so His glory would be known and praised.

The problem is: **In our flesh…we dream about scraps**….. we try to find deep lasting pleasure and purpose and praise in **fast cars, appearances, reputations, romance, our kids, pay raises, vacations, and tasty meals**.

**-C.S. Lewis says it so well in “The weight of Glory!”**

“…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.”**

Pascal brings to light how this traps us if left alone as our only pursuit!

“But these are all inadequate, because… the **infinite abyss** can only be filled by an **infinite and immutable object**, that is to say, **only by God Himself**.”

**The point is:** Many of the daily things we have been trying to gain satisfaction from “can” be great things, they are after all, given to us by God to be enjoyed….

**but** if that is all we have dreamed of and learned to enjoy then we have settled for a distant second.

If worship of God is our highest purpose in this life, then our lack of satisfaction in God is our biggest failure.

John Piper says it so well:

**<>GOD IS MOST GLORIFIED IN ME WHEN I AM MOST SATISFIED IN HIM.<>**

So, when one is looking for the best way to live out our biggest purpose in life, which is:

TO GIVE GOD unceasing GLORY and PRAISE we don’t accomplish this by trying real hard to be a good Christian, we accomplish this by **feasting deeply in HIM** & as a result we will overflow with praise and GLORY that will terminate not on us & our temporary pleasures but on HIM and his ETERNAL SUPREMACY!

**God is not worshiped where he is not treasured and enjoyed!**

**Psalm 37:4** Delight yourself in the Lord. And he will give you the desires of your heart!

**Psalm 63:1**  O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**Psalm 36:8** They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.

In the Psalms… God is the **“ALL satisfying object”.**

The first Sabbath was to stop and give God praise for what He has done. The command to take a weekly Sabbath is for this very purpose, to stop our toiling pursuit of life and to focus more directly on God as the all-satisfying object.

**2. The Idol factory**

**The problem is:**

Each of us in our sin has made a life of denying God & pursuing our own way.

To play God in our lives by doing everything our way and worshiping or finding hope, identity, significance, purpose, or security in things OTHER than God. .

In this we disobey God in our heart and our deeds or we obey him for the wrong reasons.

The Bible calls this SIN!

Our sin has distorted the object of our worship!

See, our deep-down desire to worship remains even in SIN but our sin causes us to worship creation…. instead of the Creator.

And as a result ….. **the Idol Factory begins to churn out idols.**

John Calvin, the 16th century reformer made the memorable point,

***“Our hearts are ‘idol factories’***

Our hearts long to be satisfied and they will always venture to be satisfied by something.

So, our heart, the symbol for our affections, churn out things to try to satisfy us.

And so we make idols out of the created things of God, but not God.

**Turn with me to Romans 1:18-25:**

**18**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19**For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20**For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21**For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22**Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23**and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. **24**Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

We are going to break into this text throughout our time tonight.

But, did you see, man’s sin problem, our very rebellion, is grounded in our worshiping things that are not God.

**I believe this is why idolatry is the foundation of the 10 Commandments.**

*The first is:* “You shall have no other gods before me.” **- Exodus 20:3**

Then the last talks about c**ovetousness** which is craving something more than you should. Which is a form of idolatry. So God bookends the 10 Commandments with a focus on idolatry. (Not to mention that all the other commandments are also calling us away from various forms of idolatry.)

While I cannot do an exhaustive study tonight on all the Bible says about idolatry, I will point out that the direct commands to avoid idolatry is not just confined to the Old Testament.

**1 John 5:21** *“Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.”*

**1 Corinthians 10:14** Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

**3>What is Idolatry:**

To break into our answer on what is the sin of idolatry… let me ask you..

**When someone says idol worship or idolatry, what is commonly thought of?**

**Often, a person thinks of an idol as a figure made of stone or wood. Right?**

In this, a person pictures someone prostrate on the ground before an object for religious devotion or assumed magical power.

***One author said*, “**We have, in effect, distanced ourselves from the whole idea of idolatry **by pushing it out to the extreme cultural and psychological margins of life.**”

Many don’t see idolatry in our modern culture because they only think of it in this tribal extreme way.

Or one might use ‘idolatry’ to describe someone’s obsession with money or someone a person ‘idolizes’ like Michael Jordan or Mother Teresa.

In this lane, we don’t concern ourselves with idolatry as anything worth worrying about anymore.

This point is the very concept of the singing show “American Idol”.

As you will see tonight, idolatry is real and it wrecks us. And it must be rightly understood and addressed!

**You and I are made to worship the living God.**

But this worship is not meant to be stale and heartless exultation but from the overflow of our satisfied hearts in knowing God rightly and our relationship with Him, through Christ.

What this means for us is we have a rightly **prioritized relationship** with God out of which we have a proper mode in which to live life. **To live life in response to him, for Him. To know God and be known by God.**

Because of our right relationship with him, we then understand **who we are** and arrive at our: i**dentity, personal significance, sense of security, purpose for living, and constantly find in Him our happiness and joy.**

**The problem:**

When sin came into play we tragically altered our relationship with God and as a result instead of turning GODWARD and finding in Him all that we need in life we turned away and to other things to try to discover those things God designed in us to be fulfilled by Him.

The way the Apostle Paul put it in our **Romans 1** passage today is…. instead of turning Godward.. we turn away from God. We ..did not honor him as God!

Verse **21**For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him,

***Mankind ceased to see God as fundamental and essential for the existence and fulfillment of our lives.***

Because we are made to have relationship with God in which we are fulfilled and purposed and secure and with clear identity… when we no longer seek Him to be those things for us, **we now have an active vacuum in our hearts that looks to find those things in other things.**

So, in sin, we do not only turn away from God…. we also have to find something to put in his place.

So what Paul says is that people embrace a lie to exchange the Creator for the created.

**Verse 25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

***Because we are wired for worship .. we will worship!***

So hear this: When we turn from God we find substitutes on whom we heap our worship….. “idols.”

We look to something else to give us identity, meaning, significance, purpose, security and joy!

G. K. Chesterton- When we cease to worship God, we do not worship nothing, we worship anything.

It is these substitutes that become our idols.

**So, our catechism answer is:**

Idolatry is worshiping or finding hope, identity, significance, purpose, or security in anything other than in God, our Creator.

**Your idols are anything that have become more fundamental than God in your life for your** hope, identity, significance, purpose, or security, joy and on and on.

So your idols, likely then, are not carved blocks of wood or shiny metals or formed stones

but people, places, a house, cars, teams, hopes, images, ideas, pleasures, a political party, and on and on.

Notice that it’s not “idol” singular, it's “idols”-plural. Fallen men and women have several things we sinfully seek for hope, identity, significance, purpose, or security.

In them you are putting your hope, your trust and you are trying to find from them your identity, personal significance, sense of security, purpose for living, happiness and joy .

When we begin to understand this, we begin to really understand what God was asking for in the first commandment..

“Do not have any other gods before me.”

He is saying: **Do not make anything more necessary or fundamental or valuable than me. Keep me as your** hope, identity, significance, purpose, and security. **Love Me, Trust Me, Enjoy Me!**

Martin Luther has said it this way..

*Every breaking of the commandments is at it’s core a breaking of the first commandment…*

Here is why breaking any commandment is really breaking the first…

For example:

Why do we lie? Because we want the approval or the thing that lie gets us to make us happy or fulfill us…r*eplacing God*

Why do we steal? Because we think we NEED that thing to make us happy or fulfill us… r*eplacing God*

Why do we covet or envy? Because we think if I had that.. I would be happy. It would satisfy me.. replacing God.

This brings to light a key thing to understand: **An idol (in its essence) isn’t necessarily something evil. It commonly is something very good.**

**Colossians 3:5**Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

He says these things point to idolatry in our lives. We get how covetousness is… but often we overlook the term “evil desires”.

The phrase “evil desires” here is an effort of the English translators to get across a single Greek word,

which is **Epi- thum-ia.**

**Epithumia =** Is both an evil desire and an over desire- an excessive desire.

It is desiring something evil OR it is an **over or misplaced** desire for what is good.

In this way, it is essentially addiction or lust for something God has made.

*John Calvin clearly says:*

**“The evil in our desire typically does not lie in what we want, but that we want it too much.”**

So often the object of desire is good, and the evil lies in the lordship of the desire. Give Examples: (Kids, career success, being an influencer)

Your idol can be a very good thing.. that you have simply **inflated to** worship or finding hope, identity, significance, purpose, or security in it other than in God, our creator.

**Idolatry happens** when you and I try to find our identity, personal significance, sense of security, purpose for living, happiness and joy in these things or people or status….. INSTEAD OF IN GOD!

**4>The Consequences of Idolatry:**

Now, we must see the consequences of our idolatry..

Back to Romans 1:25

**25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and **worshiped and served** the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (worship and serve)

**Consequence #1) Idolatry means God’s Judgment-**

**Romans 1:18**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

When mankind turns away from God… it is a turn towards judgment.

We saw this with Adam and Eve, it was a removal from relationship with God. And it happens over and over through human history…mankind seeks their own way, turns away from God.

The wrath of God is perfect for all those who remain unrepentant, choosing to deny God and worship something else.

To find their identity and significance and joy in something else is to lose out of the perfection and joy of life with God. So his wrath is revealed to those who deny or “suppress” the truth, which is life with the living God.

Everything else that fallen man tries to make central and ultimate will only lead to certain and eternal death.

**Our idolatry is serious because God’s judgment means eternal death.**

*It is as serious as death.. eternal death.*

**Consequence #2) Idolatry Leads to Slavery-**

-You become a slave to your idols – it begins to control you. You begin to serve it.

This functional counterfeit god in our life becomes our master.

Here in lies the irony for all those who intentionally say no to the one true God… say no to living for Him.

You inevitably will turn to something else that turns on you and controls you. The intention in the beginning is you think you can control it, but it gains power and priority over you and in the end controls you so that you become a slave to your idol.

For example:

Money becomes an idol because it becomes more fundamental to your joy and life than God.

Money says. “You will finally enjoy life if you have me. You will amount to someone.

You will be secure with more money”.

And so you work yourself to death…. even at the cost of faithfulness to God and His church, or family, or toher friendships.

**We put cash on the throne in our hearts and make it KING.**

**But we do this and make money our idol and instead of working to glorify God.**

**Money is so your master.. your KING… that you live to work.**

**Sometimes, the false fulfillment of money causes you to lie and steal to have more.**

-Like a slave master who has you in his grip, you lie for him….. to get promotions or qualify for loans or credit cards.

-You steal and spend more than you know you have to pay back at the expense of someone else.

-You’re not giving to the church joyfully, to support and be a part of the gospel ministry…God’s design in this isn’t good enough for you.

-You cheat on your taxes and in your addiction make excuses that it is ok because you have decided ultimately who really should get your money. Not the government or God. You.

**Consequence #3) Idolatry Leads to Devastation-**

**Hosea 8:4** With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction.

When your idol’s let you down.. or breaks down or runs away, you will begin to come undone**!**

You feel crushed. Maybe even like you want to die**- why?** Because that thing or position or person has become everything to you… ultimate, fundamental, and so when it is away or not working or lost or gone you feel incomplete and undone. What is little and/or temporary is set up on a mantle to be EVERYTHING, to be ultimate.. to be fundamental to us.

ie. A family member can become an idol because they become more fundamental to your joy & life than God.

When you make a family member ultimate.. if they leave you or get hurt or die….. **It will wreck you.**

I sat with my best friend in his mid twenties as he said goodbye to his Mom.. the closest person to him in life as she lost her battle with lupus. If not for Jesus being his ultimate relationship, he would have absolutely come undone.

**If a Good thing is lost, you can move on... if an ultimate thing is lost, you are lost.**

Whatever you give your heart to… it converts you, it gives you a sense of identity and purpose to live.

Now, because losing our idols is so devastating… You become trapped in fear, which leads to the third consequence of the idol factory at work.

**Consequence #3) Idolatry Leads to Fear-**

**Jonah 2:8** Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.

Because the response to losing our idols is so powerfully devastating… we can become overcome with fear for losing it. Instead of hope, you are plagued with fear!

So a level of great unhealth comes to us because of our **fierce fear** **driven motivation** to keep our idols in our possession. This is where addiction for so many takes over. An imbalance in thinking that causes one to over elevate something that isn’t necessarily bad to an unhealthy involvement.

Because we are stricken with fear.. seldom do we really feel true peace! **Why?**  Because the thing I have elevated to ultimate could be lost or stolen or broken.

Only in the everlasting God are we able to find peace because all that is temporary gains purpose as it points to Him and in Him my ultimate affection is always satisfied.

But a righteous God.. a just God… must justly give out judgment for those who choose the created over the Creator to worship and love and find meaning for life in. Which leads to the fourth consequence of the idol factory at work in our hearts.

**Consequence #4) Idolatry means a Deepening Alienation Between Us and others.**

**James 4:1-5** What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

**What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?**

**In this text: James points out that all of our relational & internal struggle in this life is linked to our idolatry.**

Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?... You adulterous people!   **The affections of our heart are at war between what they were designed to be satisfied in and the counterfeits that enrage us when they constantly let us down.**

**James 4:2**You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

Our desires are put on things that do not deliver.. and so we rebel, create division, war, fight and complain.

You want something so badly that you turn on people to have it.

You can look at every relational struggle you have and underneath all of it is some sort of idol worship.

What this idol is many times in our lives is what we call the **“fear of man”**

**Turn for a brief moment to …. John 12:42-43** Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

In this passage, what we find is man’s deep-seated sinful desire to long for the approval, applause, acceptance, compliments, affection of **other people** rather than from **God.**

We call this **“the fear of man”.** It is something we all struggle with.

**What is the fear of man?**

**Wrong types of concern for what other people think of us. It is a sinful desire for approval and a fear of rejection.**

Understand these are natural human desires… things that God has put in us. The Bible talks specifically about Christians living a life that is acceptable to others, and what other people think of your character and reputation speaks to the witness you portray about God.

But, i**t is when we have an over desire or wrong-hearted desire or place the opinion of others over that of God when we sin against God.**

**To make it personal for you today/tonight: To see how the fear of man is active in your life:**

**Do you need something from others?** - to fulfill you.

**Do you crave compliments?**

**Do you worry that you might be exposed as an imposter?**

**Are you overly concerned with how you look, how you compare to what others look like, or how you are dressed?**

**Do you think about your self-worth and look to others to shore up how you feel about yourself?**

**Do you often feel unappreciated?**

**Are you quick to make excuses or shift blame so that you do not look like a failure in front of others?**

The fear of man always causes us to set God aside as we want to get another’s approval or into the next inner circle,

but it is a failed venture because as soon as we get the praise of another or reach the next inner circle, we discover there is another layer to crave. The problem in this is other people's perceptions of you dominates and controls your life.

**Like I said earlier, our idolatry leads to slavery.**

The slavery that comes from the idol of the “fear of man” is potent and potentially the most lording kind of slavery as it will dictate what you think, when you should speak, what you should wear, when to laugh, who you are worthy to talk to and even who you should try to be.

**Consequence #5 - Idolatry means Alienation between us and God-**

**James 4:3-5**You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **4**You adulterous people!

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5**Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

We see the perfect “jealous love” of God in this passage.

You and I are made to worship God.. to be in intimate relationship with Him forever.

All behavior is God relational! We are always responding to God.

But in sin we have an over desire for something God created and prefer it over God… our intended relationship with God is broken. We end up cheating on God.

* **We are either loving God or despise him and give our affections to something else.**
* **We are either submitting to Him or resisting Him by serving something else.**
* **We are trusting in Him or turning from Him to lean on something else.**
* **We are seeking Him or neglecting Him by looking to something else.**

James calls this declaring war on Him… “enmity with God”.

**Enmity : the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.**

We have befriended something in the world to the point that it has caused us to neglect and dishonor the one true God-

That is idolatry!

**Did you notice James called them “adulterous people”?… but he is not talking to people who sexually cheated on someone.** James calls this adultery because **we have cheated on God.**

Old Testament prophets would commonly use this same language of adultery or of prostitution.

The word they used is **whoredom**… Israel was “whoring” themselves out to other gods instead of remaining faithful to the one they are designed to remain faithful too. YAHWEH

In this, we have preferred another love over God. James is acknowledging this simply as adultery.

**5- The Good News**

**So… How do we restore what is broken in our relationship with God?**

**James 4:6-8** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” **7**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8**Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

--God gives us undeserved grace!

Ohhh…. how we need a Savior … who can set us free so that we might truly be satisfied in the only one who can satisfy and who is worthy of our eternal praise.

Realize…*works-based* religion is lying to you when it says.. YOU can save yourself by trying real hard to shut the idol factory down yourself! Only 1 can do this for us…. The God of grace!

**Turn with me back to Isaiah 42:5** Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

**Who is the one who puts air in our lungs?**

**Who is the one who sets us in motion and numbers our days?**

**Who made everything around us so that it might all point us to Him and cause us to revel in & worship Him? God -Yahweh.**

**The answer to “who can set us free and satisfy our deepest longing to worship?”**

**is Yahweh… and not only can He… but He has! Read on with me… verse 6:**

**Isaiah 42:6-8**“I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, **7**to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. **8 I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.**

**The idol factory must be closed.. & the good news we read here today is it can be…Look at the passage again, God is talking about JESUS! This is gospel! for He declares…** “I will take you (The incarnate JESUS) by the hand and keep you (JESUS); I will give you (JESUS) as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, **7**to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.” **This is the gospel good news! JESUS does for us what we cannot do! JESUS is the one and only answer to our sin problem, our idolatry!**

**How does Jesus do this? By giving us Himself. By giving us the expulsive power of a greater affection!**

*Thomas Chalmers said-* ***“There is not one personal transformation in which the heart is left without an object of ultimate beauty and joy. The heart’s desire for one particular object can be conquered, but it’s desire to have some object is unconquerable. The only way to dispossess the heart of an old affection is by the expulsive power of a new one.”***

**You might be able to temporarily remove one idol but your heart still must cast its affections on something….so, you will simply pick up another to fills its place.**

**Chalmers is saying here.**

i**dols of the heart cannot simply be removed.. they must be replaced.**

**So the question then is replaced with what? --**The only thing that ultimately can satisfy and bring joy and life and identity and security and purpose… =JESUS

This is why here at DC we love the law of God, and will call each other to obedience as God has said, BUT we know that the law cannot save us, we know that the law points us to our need for Jesus, we know that the gospel is the thing that brings true God-glorifying change here.

**Temporary fixes and/or helpful habits do not cure the deepest disease and self -inflicted pain we struggle with in life. =our idolatry.**

**Only the expulsive power of a bigger and better target for our affections can eliminate the failed idols the heart has tried to cling to…**

**This is why we are mainly focused on stirring your affections toward the gospel.**

**THE GOOD NEWS.. To understand the fullness of the beauty and wonder of Christ..**

**To fall deeply in love with Jesus alone. Above all else.**

The key to being rid of the idols we worship is not merely **to love them less** but **to love Christ more, OR for some in the room, START loving Christ**. Repent and believe the Gospel. Have Jesus as you ultimate and eternal treasure!

And in doing so.. if the heart truly is that taken by Jesus ….our clinch to over elevate God’s created things is rightfully adjusted. In treasuring Jesus above all else, we can spot idolatry temptations and make war with them, we can joyfully hear from our brothers and sisters in Christ concern over idol temptations in our life and be thankful for their help to avoid idolatry and so on.

Treasuring Christ above all else is the key. The gospel is the key. Make war with the sin of idolatry….by believing the gospel and applying the gospel to the struggling areas of your life.

I encourage you to really sit into the catechism answer this week. Evaluate your life—evaluate your heart. What are you finding hope, identity, significance, purpose, or security in other than in God, our Creator.

And talk to others about it. Ask for their input on how they see you longing and living—you might have some blind spots in this. Let the body of Christ be what God designed—family who looks out for each other, speaking truth to each other, calling each other to holiness, and supporting each other in gospel centered life.

Let’s pray!