

Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

Topic 2 - The Doctrine of God

Lesson 40 - The Attributes of God: Will (Part 4)

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The Want To

- Our will (volition, decision making, determination) desires what we love and repudiates what we hate.
- Our actions then accord with what we desire most.
- The mind shapes the affections, which shape the will, which directs the actions.
- Therefore, what we truly believe or desire will directly affect our thinking and behavior.
- So what do you really want? What do you truly desire? What you pursue reveals what you truly desire.

The Want To and the Want Not To

- Romans 7:15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

What are you pursuing?

- Are you pursuing peace?
- Psalm 34:14 Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
- Romans 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.
- Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:
- 1 Peter 3:11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.
- Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

What are you pursuing?

- Are you pursuing love?
- 1 Cor. 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.
- Are you pursuing what is good (beneficial, health giving)?
- 1 Thess. 5:15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.
- Are you pursuing righteousness, etc.?
- 1 Tim. 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
- 2 Tim. 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

What are you pursuing?

- Are you pursuing sanctification and maturity?
- Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reordering Our Desires

- Crucify Fleshly Desires
- James 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.
- Colossians 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- Galatians 5:24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Reordering Our Desires

- Desire the Lord and His Word
- Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.
- 1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby
- Psa. 145:19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.
- John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

Reordering Our Desires

- Be Honest with the Lord and with yourself.
- Psa. 38:9 Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You.
- Psa. 27:4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.
- Learn to Serve
- Matthew 20:26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Reordering Our Desires

- Press On and Finish - Completion
- 2 Corinthians 8:10 And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; 11 but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. 12 For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.
- Be Willing to Suffer for Wanting and Doing what is Right
- 2 Tim. 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Fact - Faith - Feeling

- Facts define reality or the truth.
- Faith is belief, or trust.
- So what do we believe? Do we have Faith in our Feelings and mistake our emotions for reality?
- Instead we need to have Faith in the Facts.
- When we have Faith (trust) in the Facts (truth) then our Feelings will follow.