

HOW WE BECOME DESENSITIZED TO SIN

People can endure many unpleasant things if they allow themselves to become desensitized to them. This process may take place by enduring and ignoring it as much as is possible for a period of time. After enough time, the person no longer pays attention to what was at the beginning something very unpleasant. Another way this might happen is by building up one's resistance to something. Someone may be able to take only a small amount of some unpleasant activity at first, but then little by little he is able to endure more and more.

Satan understands that these principles work with many things in life and he uses that against us. There are many things in the world that God fearing people find deplorable. Satan knows that and also knows that it would be futile to try to plunge most righteous people into those kinds of things all at once. So, he seeks to bring about a desensitization to sin. If he can convince someone just to tolerate sin long enough, he will eventually convince that person to accept that sin. The process may take a long time, but Satan does not care about that. He is committed to his cause so much that he will sacrifice the time it takes to reach his goal of destroying as many souls as he can.

Is this process really happening? It certainly is. All one must do is observe what is happening in the world today and he will see exactly how Satan has caused multitudes of people to become desensitized to sin. Have you been caught up in that trap? Have you become desensitized to sin? Think of these areas in which Satan has worked so diligently.

The Corruption of Christ's Doctrine

The Lord's church today suffers from the widespread problem of a lack of understanding of and a lack of respect for the authority of Christ. People in the church are rebelling against many of the foundational teachings of the New Testament. For many years now, there has been a gradual drifting away from the New Testament standard. Influential men have introduced new terms and concepts that have taken root and flourished. Where in the New Testament does one read of a differentiation between levels of fellowship? Does the concept of "unity in diversity" appear in an apostolic writing? Did the idea that the church needs a "new hermeneutic" come from God? Which of the apostles argued over the principle of "pattern theology?" These are all concepts that have had tremendous influence on many Christians today, and because of that influence, many churches have begun to promote some kind of fellowship with denominational groups.

And what of the rejection of many basic tenets of New Testament Christianity? It is no longer uncommon to hear of congregations of the Lord's church who promote the use of women in leadership and teaching positions. We are no longer shocked to hear of churches that use "praise teams" or choirs or theatrical groups in their worship assemblies. Many of our brethren now dedicate babies, celebrate Christmas and Easter as religious holidays, lift up hands as the Pentecostal do, clap and shout during the worship or after baptisms, and divide their assemblies into children's churches, house churches, contemporary churches, and traditional churches. Some use anything and everything from denominational literature, to television shows, to local medical doctors, lawyers, and financiers who discuss medical, legal, and financial issues during their Bible classes.

These things did not exist in the church in New Testament days. They did not exist a generation ago in America. How then have they come to be so prevalent today? It is through the desensitization process. Had Satan attempted to bring all of these things into the church at once, he would have failed miserably. However, by bringing in changes in small increments, he has succeeded in leading many Christians far away from the truth. He has succeeded in corrupting the doctrinal purity of the church with worldly doctrines and concepts. This all happened because members of the church either didn't or wouldn't see where all of those small changes were taking them. Now they are a part of a corrupt system and their corruption seems right to them! How sad it is that so many have been so deceived and because they allowed themselves to become desensitized to the danger of sin, they do not even realize the deception Satan has worked in them.

The Decline of Moral Standards

Throughout her history, America has been, generally, a nation of high moral standards. We have valiantly stood against atrocities in other lands by committing the full force of American military might to put an end to those atrocities. The general population of America has largely resisted the moral and ethical corruptions so prevalent in other nations. The American public has had a general respect for religion and belief in God. However, that time of general moral uprightness is ebbing. A generation of Americans has arisen who want no restraints, who see no absolute standards, and whose main goal in life is to find pleasure, regardless of the cost.

We now live in a nation where entertainment is god and Satan uses that god to teach all the nation to sin, just as Balaam taught Balak to cause Israel to sin (Rev. 2:14). Just think about what can be seen in nearly every living room in America today. Sitcoms and dramatic

television shows alike that glorify homosexuality, adultery, violence, blasphemy, and outright rebellion against God. No longer content with implying sexuality on TV shows, producers now do all but show the sinful action in full detail (and who knows how long it will be before they do even that!). Having fulfilled their mission of introducing homosexuality to mainstream America by the occasional appearance of homosexual characters, producers now have begun to put out entire series that revolve around homosexual characters. It is no longer taboo to show naked people (either of the same or opposite gender) in bed together. No more do censors cry foul when TV shows depict bloody, violent scenes. More and more offensive words and phrases find their way onto the airwaves every year.

How did all of this come to be? Why do Americans not rise up in arms against such an overt attack on moral decency? It is because they have become desensitized to the horror of what they see on their televisions. This situation did not happen overnight. Television programming did not go from Ozzie and Harriet to NYPD Blue in the blink of an eye. It happened gradually. At one time censors refused to allow the producers of I Love Lucy even to have a double bed in Lucy and Ricky's bedroom. They pressured the Dick Van Dyke Show into toning down Mary Tyler Moore's wardrobe because her Capri pants were too racy. But these standards of decency have slowly eroded. A somewhat questionable scene here an off-color comment there and after enough time there has developed an overly permissive standard that allows just about anything to be broadcast today. And the television industry continues the pressure to relax what little standards remain.

And so we find ourselves as children of God in a time when Satan is enjoying much success. In the church he has succeeded in slowly destroying people's devotion to truth through a gradual process of weakening, questioning, and compromising. In society he has succeeded in slowly destroying the moral fabric of our nation so that we are constantly barraged with assaults on our holiness. We must wake up. We must not allow ourselves to become desensitized to the attacks of our enemy. We must be sober and vigilant. Our adversary is on the prowl (1 Pet. 5:8).

Kevin Beard from *Eastside Edifier*

BIRTHDAY

Bob Adams, 12-06.

ILL

Sunday: Sarah Marcum, Evan Pflugardt. Susan Cotterill will have surgery on December 15 at Menorah Medical Center in Overland Park, Kansas. Evan Pflugardt was taken to the Emergency Room at Children's Mercy South on Tuesday night last week.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards left on Tuesday of last week for a business trip in Kentucky. The Greer's were in Independence last Sunday night. Jeremy Keifer was visiting relatives in Oklahoma last Sunday. Joel and Cindy Nelson were away on a vacation last week. The Parish family was away last Sunday.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, December 3 following our AM worship. Plan to come and enjoy the good food and company.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, December 10 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are requested to participate.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 55; Sunday PM, 39; Wednesday PM, NA.

Those To Serve

December 3, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
PRESIDE..... John Carter
ASSIST.....David Adams
ASSIST.....Jared Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER.....Charles Tullis

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Gary Cole
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Carter

WEDNESDAY 6th

SONG LEADER.....Jeremy Keifer
INVITATION John Cody Carter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp