

Overcoming Spiritual Apathy

Handout Notes

- [Let] the one who leads, [do so] with zeal.” - Romans 12:8
- “Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord” - Romans 12:11

The Goal: We would move from spiritual apathy to zeal for Christ.

Causes of Spiritual Apathy

Cause #1 - Unconfessed sin

- When we love our sin, more than we love Christ, we lose intimacy with Christ.
- “See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.” - Hebrews 3:12
- “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” Psalm 66:18
- “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.” - Psalm 51:10-11
- “Search me, 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

Cause #2 - Broken Relationships

- “if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.” - Matt. 5:23-24
- “For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.” - 1 John 4:20
- There is a direct link between our relationships with people and our relationship with God.

Cause #3 - Broken Cisterns

- “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” - Jeremiah 2:13

- “give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ - Proverbs 30:8-9
- **Discussion:**
 - **What are the broken cisterns we run to? What do we pursue for pleasure and fulfillment instead of Christ?**
 - **What are the consequences of pursuing those things instead of Christ?**

Cause #4: Unbelief

- The greatest cause of our spiritual apathy is unbelief.

I.O.U.S.

- **Incline my heart to your testimonies**
 - Incline my heart to your testimonies - Psalm 119:36
- **Open my eyes to see wonderful things**
 - Open my eyes, that I may behold, wondrous things out of your law. Psalm 119:18
- **Unite my heart to fear your name**
 - Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. Psalm 86:11
- **Satisfy me in the morning with your steadfast love**
 - Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Psalm 90:14
- “I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord.” - George Müller
- “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” - Augustine

Discussion:

- **What have you found most helpful to rekindle your love for God or help you to pursue Christ?**