A logo for a serenity retreat

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Week 5 – Homework Questions

Chapter 6

**“The “Belief and Choice” Principle”**

# **Part One**

1. What is the oversimplified explanation for why we do what we do?

Answer:

# Fill in the following blanks:

1. “Your decision in who or what to “obey” is highly influenced by what you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
2. Generally speaking, why do we struggle to obey what God asks us to do?

Answer:

1. According to the text what is the difference between our “will and our “desire?”

Answer:

# **Part Two**

*God created us to be motivated by our emotions just as He is motivated by His. His actions are often an expression of the love, joy, peace, sadness, and anger that he feels because He knows (and is) the truth.*

Our behavior, on the other hand, is often an expression of what? What are some examples of behaviors that are expressions of our lie-based pain?

Answer:

# Fill in the following blanks:

1. “Our beliefs create the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we have and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we feel, and in response, we make an emotionally charged decision to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ something.”
2. What motivated the disciples’ decision to wake Jesus from His nap?

Answer:

1. What should we do instead of viewing our negative emotions (e.g. anxious, worried, scared, stressed) and our compulsion to act as problematic?

Answer:

1. Each TPM Mentor must make a conscious effort to model *what*?

Answer:

1. Whenever a Mentor’s impure faith is exposed during a session, what might his or her emotional pain motivate him or her to do?

Answer:

# 

# **Part Three**

1. What do we do when we are confronted with a problem?

Answer:

1. What do we engage in for the purpose of “solving” the problems we believe we face? Give three examples.

Answer:

1. What did Peter lack that caused him to draw his sword as Jesus was being arrested?

Answer:

1. Rather than addressing the actual issue, our chosen solutions tend to do *what*?

Answer:

1. Do you ever identify with Paul in Romans 7:15? Give an example of this for yourself or when you have noticed it in someone else.

Answer:

# **Part Four**

# Fill in the following blanks:

1. “We perceive problems because our perspectives are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and we engage in solutions because we have been deceived into believing that they will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This deceptive strategy of the enemy has been in play since the very beginning…one of Satan’s primary schemes is to offer us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ solutions to our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ problems.
2. What does the word that is translated as “repentance” in 2 Corinthians 7:9 mean?

Answer:

1. What do we call a behavior that is done to solve a perceived problem?

Answer:

1. What do we mistakenly attempt to assume when we try to solve our own problems? Give two examples.

Answer:

1. When we attempt to do God’s job for Him by acting as a “problem solver,” is this a behavioral issue or a belief issue? When will we stop doing that behavior?

Answer:

# Fill in the following blanks:

1. “God desires for us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_upon His involvement and trust in His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and He knows that we will when the eyes of our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are opened. He is working to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_our limited and flawed perspectives. But He also wants us to realize the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our “solutions” and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His.

# **Part Five**

1. Why were the events leading up to Jesus’ death misinterpreted by practically everybody?

Answer:

# Fill in the following blanks:

1. “Our Heavenly Father cares deeply about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ behind our behavior.”
2. How did Jesus respond to the faith that motivated the paralytic and his friends?

Answer:

1. Why is it important to know when our behavior is motivated and directed by our limited and flawed perspectives?

Answer:

# Fill in the following blanks:

1. “God wants you to do the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_thing, but more than that, He wants you to do the right thing for the right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He wants your obedience to be an expression of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not fear or duty.

# **Part Six**

# Fill in the following blanks:

1. But “good things” that are done with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ motives are not themselves “\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” they are simply part of the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_things” that God works together for the “good”.
2. What term do we use to describe the “good” things that are done to meet a need that we believe we have, escape from our emotional pain, or otherwise “solve” a perceived problem?

Answer:

1. What does God want our outward behavior to reflect?

Answer:

1. To determine if our actions are motivated by emotional pain and directed by lie-based beliefs, what question should we ask ourselves?

Answer:

# **Part Seven**

# Fill in the following blanks:

1. “We are motivated by what we believe in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and guided by what we believe in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
2. When our beliefs inaccurately or incompletely reflect the truth, what is the consequence?

Answer:

1. How might a person who struggles with inappropriate behavior have an advantage over those who outwardly seem to have their acts together?

Answer:

# Fill in the following blanks:

1. “If we were able to believe the truth, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ truth, and nothing but the truth both in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, our thoughts and behavior would always reflect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ heart and mind. When this is not the case, we have room for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and still need God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We do not yet \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ know God and are unable to see ourselves the way God sees us.

# For personal reflection: (Will not be asked to share)

*God is not looking for more “Marthas” who will work hard on His behalf, pouring themselves into misguided productivity. He desires for us to sit next to Mary at His feet and receive the “good part” that He has for us (Luke 10:38-42). He wants to work in us more than He wants us to work for Him. He desires for us to know the truth of who He is, what He’s done, and who we are in Him. This is what is necessary (Luke 10:42).*

1. Are there areas in your own life where you are trying to work for God rather than humbly inviting Him to work in you?

Answer:

1. What “good parts” do we forfeit while busily serving with Martha?

Answer:

1. How does our “sitting” and “receiving” impact our ability to serve and minister to others? What should we do when we discover that we are acting more like Martha than we are like Mary?

Answer: