

Re-orienting our Desires

What is Desire?

- It is the power or drive that compels toward an attractive goal/object.
- Desire—like ‘free will’—is God given and a gift when it remains under the leadership of the Holy Spirit
- It is a strong yearning toward something or someone. It can begin automatically—aroused by circumstances. **Craving** begins to ignite when **we focus** on the object of our desire and the desirability of the ‘bait’.
- Desire covers a wide range of human wants, emotions, and cravings. Describes natural desires—such as a desire for food, or sexual longing. It also describes the kind of desire and longing that we were created for: Desire for God.
- We can learn what ‘**desire**’ means by how it is used:
 Psalm 73:25/ Psalm 38:9
 Gal 5:17/ II Peter 2:18
- In the NT—there is a word: *epithumeo* <1937> to have the affections directed toward anything; desire; long after. Can refer to desire in a good sense—or—in a bad sense—such as **lusting** or **coveting**.

The Mastery of our Desire

- **What if discipleship includes the mastery of the realm of desire?**
- **Ephesians 4:17-24**
 - We don’t walk like the world—in the futility of our mind alone (We have believed that we can think our way into holiness—**that sanctification comes from gaining more information**. Darkened in understanding/excluded from the life (Spirit) of God/hardened heart
 - Given over to sensuality
 - Psalm 37:4: Give you the desire of your heart...
 - Romans 1:25-26: For this reason, God gave them over to degrading passions (shameful lusts, shameful desires, dishonorable passions, vile affections, shameful affections...)
 - Impurity with greediness (NLT: They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity).
 - YOU DID NOT LEARN CHRIST IN THIS WAY.
 - Lay aside old self—what is being corrupted with the lusts of deceit (deceitful desires, misleading impulses)
 - Put on new self—created in righteousness—holiness—and truth.

Training our Desire

- Eyes fixed on true goal
- Sustained face to face produces transformation. Information does not produce transformation—wrong tree.
- Whoever or Whatever you submit to—is what you will become.