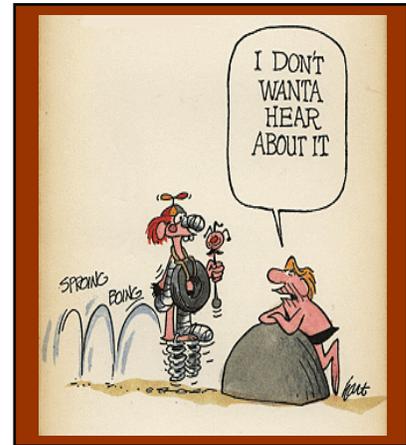


CORE ASSUMPTIONS

How Do We Live In A Fallen World?!

There is something wrong with everything! The world and it's people are not getting "better". As technology increases our comfort level, morality in our culture is disintegrating at a rapid rate. Yet, there is Hope.

Substantial, personal change is possible when we are willing to start from the inside out. ~ L. Crabb



I DON'T WANTA HEAR ABOUT IT!!

1. ***"I'm made in the image of God: I long for relationship and impact."***

- Look in the mirror. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. *Read Psalm 139*
- Because you bear God's image in your soul, Satan and forces of evil will expend more everyday to destroy you than anything else in the universe.
- You are designed to hunger for God.
- You are designed to have impact on others for eternity.

2. ***"I'm bent in the direction of finding life on my own: I despise anyone or anything that requires vulnerable and dependent trust."*** The commitment to autonomous self-protection can be most clearly seen in relationships.

Read Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 17:9

- It is not what has happened to us (being victimized) that keeps us from finding God.
- It is how we respond to what has happened to us that keeps us from finding God. *Read Jer. 29:11-14*
- The core problem of the human heart is rebellion, saying *"I will not be hurt again!!"* *Read 1 Samuel 15:22-23.* This does not minimize any abuse or injustice that has victimized us, but rather recognizes the *"clined fist"* raised into the face of God from deep in our soul.
- *"The core of all sin is the suspicion that God is not good."* ~Oswald Chambers

3. ***Self-protective styles of relating are usually utilized without awareness of their form, function, or destructive consequences.***

- Sin is subtle. We often have a way of *"positioning people for our comfort,"* i.e. *"not too close... not too far away."* Sin is not just what we do, it is the cancerous, manipulative condition of our soul (heart).
- Positioning relationship:
 - ◇ Fear of shame position means *"the closer you get the more capacity there is for disruption"*
 - ◇ Fear of abandonment position means *"I don't want to be alone"*
- All sin is seen in the failure of relationship. All behavior is the result of chosen goals. ~ L. Crabb

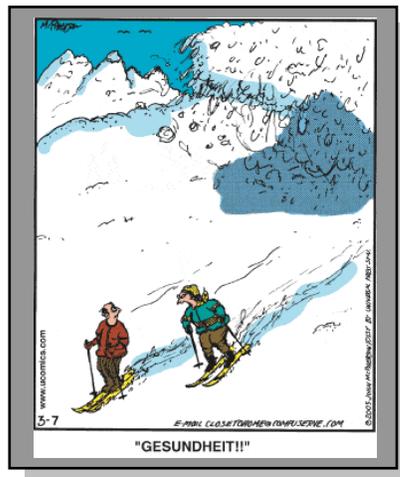
- Emotions reveal the consequences of our belief system. They reveal our struggle with God and with each other.
- Our emotions are just as fallen as our rational capacity.
- Emotions do not have to be true to reveal what needs to be examined in our soul and hence our behavior.

4. Deep and abiding change does not occur without repentance of self-protective patterns of living.

- Change is not the dividend of insight (though you cannot repent of what you are unaware).
- Change is not catharsis (though you cannot repent and be unaffected while living in a fallen world as a fallen person).
- There is no repentance needed for being victimized.
- Repentance is required at the point of our “*commitment of a clinched fist in the face of God*”, which demands “*I will make my life work!!*”
See Jeremiah 2:13
- Change requires losing confidence in ourselves, abilities, training, education, etc., and transferring our confidence into the person of Christ.

5. Change is a life long process that is not completed by any one spectacular experience (excepting death or the Lord’s return), insight or behavioral initiative.

“...we know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is, and everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” 1 John 3:2-3



GESUNDHEIT !!

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