




Brave Men

The Holiness of God and
the Mortification of Sin, Part 1



Wow!! Who knew?



“Holiness is nothing but the
implanting, writing and living out
the gospel in our souls”

— John Owen, [The Holy Spirit](#)

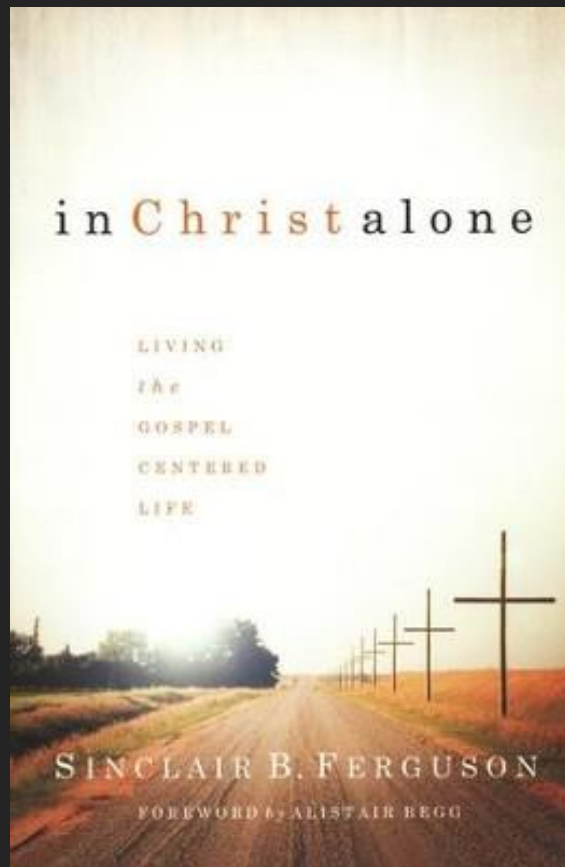
Brave Men

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the Mortification of Sin, Part 1

Teaching Outline

- Attributes of God
- The Holiness of God
- The Fall and the Problem of Sin
- Redemption
- Sanctification
- Mortification of Sin





Scripture Reading

Part VI – Faithful to the End

Chapter 48 – The Mortification of Sin

Sinclair's chosen scripture to start is

Colossians 3: 1 - 17

Communicable Attributes of God, (Grudem, Systematic Theology)

Categories:
Describing God's Being
Mental
Moral
Of Purpose
Summary



Holiness is a Moral
Attribute of God

What is Holiness?

Separate from sin

Purity

Devoted to seeking his own honor

Watson – “the intrinsic purity of his essence”

Shedd – “Right in himself and all of his actions”

Hodge - Absolute Moral perfection

Other thoughts?



Devotion

The Holiness of
God revealed in
His attitude to
good and evil

*Sinners in the
Hand of an Angry
God,*
Jonathan
Edwards



“They deserve to be cast into Hell; so that divine justice never stands in the way, it makes no objection against God using his power at any moment to destroy them. Yea, on the contrary, justice calls aloud for an infinite punishment of their sins. Divine justice says of the tree that brings forth such grapes as Sodom, “Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground? Luke 13:7. The sword of divine justice is every moment brandished over their heads, and it is nothing but the hand of arbitrary mercy, and God’s mere will, that holds it back.”

How is the Holiness of God Revealed



Through His Holy Law

Through His attitude toward good and evil

Through His son, Jesus

Through His people by obeying His Holy Law and imitating
His Holy Character

The Identity and Attributes of God – Terry L. Johnson

THE IDENTITY AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

TERRY L. JOHNSON

“The Attributes of Attributes”: The Holiness of God **The Identity and Attributes of God – Terry L. Johnson**

- ‘All other attributes are a comment on his holiness’. Packer
- ‘Excellency and beauty of God’s nature whereby his heart is disposed and delights in everything that is morally good and excellent’ Jonathan Edwards
- ‘That perfection of God, in virtue of which he eternally wills and maintains his own moral excellence, abhors sin, and demands purity in his moral creatures’ Louis Berkof
- ‘Is in a sense the foundation of all his other virtues or ‘excellencies’ insofar as God must be characterized by this sacred self-regard or reflexive purity if he is to be perfect in wisdom, power, justice, and mercy and if he is to be properly regarded by his creation.’ Richard Muller



The Fall and The Problem of Sin

Sin enters the world through Adam
What are its consequences for us?

πᾶς ὁ βλέπων γυναῖκα ἤδη ἐμοίχευσεν αὐτήν ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτοῦ.

Rembrandt, *The Woman Taken in Adultery*

27 Ἐκούσατε ὅτι ἐρρέθη
Οὐ μοιχεύσεις.

28 ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι
πᾶς ὁ βλέπων γυναῖκα πρὸς τὸ ἐπιθυμῆσαι αὐτήν
ἤδη ἐμοίχευσεν αὐτήν ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτοῦ.

27 "You have heard that it was said,
'You shall not commit adultery;'
28 but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a
woman to lust after her has committed
adultery with her already in his heart. Matt 5:27-28

Abusers of Self, Adultery, Anger, Arrogance, Backbiters, Banqueting, Becoming a Stumbling Block to a Weaker Brother, Being Angry with One's Brother, Bitterness, Blasphemy, Boasting, Brawling, Brother Going to Law Against Brother, Burying our Talents, Calling One's Brother a Fool, Chambering, Clamor, Complaining, Contentious, Corrupt Communications, Covenant Breakers, Covetousness, Craftiness (Cunningness), Debate, Deceit, Defiling the Body, Denying Christ, Desiring the Praise of Men, Despiteful, Dishonesty, Disobedience to Parents, Divisions, Divorce, Double Tongued, Drunkenness, Eating the Bread or Drinking the Lord's Cup Unworthily, Effeminate, Emulations, Envy, Evil Concupiscence, Evil eye, Evil Thoughts, Extortion, Father's Provoking Children to Wrath, Fearful, Filthiness, Filthy Lucre, Foolishness, Foolish Talking, Giving False Witness, Fornication, Giving Offense, Greediness, Guile, Haters of God, Hatred, Having Evil Treasures in the Heart, Having Pleasure In Them That Do Things Worthy of Death, Haring the Sayings of Christ, but Not Following Them, Heresies, Highmindedness,, Hypocrisy, Idle Words or Words of no Value, Idolatry; Loving Someone or something more than God, Implacable: Refusing to be appeased, Inordinate Affection,: Passion, Lust, Jesting, Talking to make others laugh, Judging, Knowing to do Good, but not doing it, Lasciviousness: Lustful, wanton, exciting lust, Laying Up Treasures on Earth: Pursuing material success at the expense of spiritual things, Lovers of Self, Loving Another Person More Than Jesus, Lusting After A woman, Lying, Maliciousness, Malignity: Being harmful or dangerous, bad character, Mockery, Murder, Murmuring: Grumbling, Secretly complaining, Presumptuous, Pride, Puffed Up, Purloining, Railing: Slander, Reveling: Overindulgence at feasts, merrymaking, Rioting, Seditions: stirring up opposition against authority, Self Will, Speaking against the Holy Spirit, Sorcery, Speaking Evil of Dignities, Stealing, Stiff-Necked, Strife, Striker, Swearing, Teaching for Doctrine the Commandments of Men, Traitors, Trusting in Riches, Not Entering the Door into the Sheepfold, Unbelief, Uncleaness, Unforgiving heart, Unmerciful, Unthankfulness, Vain Jangling, Variance, Voluntary or False Humility, Wantonness, Whisperers, Whoremongers, Witchcraft, Wickedness, Without Normal Affection, Without Understanding: Unwise, Wrath, Woman Cutting Her Hair, Woman Prophesying or Praying with her Head Uncovered

What are we saved from?

God's Wrath

“If we hate the wrath of God, it is because we hate God himself.”

“The unconverted hate God.”

Romans 5:10, “For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son...”

RC Sproul, *The Holiness of God*



THE
EVIL OF EVILS



Jeremiah Burroughs

(1599-1646)



Job 36:21 For this hast thou chosen instead of affliction

- Alternate title of this book is “The Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin”
- Chapter 2 – The Servants of God have chosen the most dreadful afflictions rather than the least sin.
- Chapter 3 – There is some good in affliction but none in sin
- Chapter 8 – The working of sin are always against God
- On it goes for 67 chapters over 345 pages

Redemption

John 17: 9-10 17-19



⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.

¹⁷Sanctify them in truth, your word is truth!
¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Personal Holiness

1 John 2: 15 -17



¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world.¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Ligonier Conference, The Holiness of God, 2019

Set Apart

Sinclair Ferguson



John 17 and 1 John 2:15-17

New Identify – I am the disciple that Jesus loved, given to us in Christ. I am the donation (gift) of the Father to the Son.

New Holiness – To which we are called, we are in the world, but not of the world.

These two always go together.
We must have a holy love of God.
Holiness is chiefly expressed in love, in Christ-likeness. Our home is in Heaven.

Personal Holiness

Sanctification



Sanctification – Already/Not Yet

Hebrews 10:10

¹⁰ And by that (God the Father's) will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Positionally)

Philippians 2:12-13

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Progressively)

Personal Holiness

Why be holy?



We are commanded to be holy!

1 Peter 1:14-16

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Personal Holiness

Jonathan
Edwards

“The Manner
in which the
Salvation of
the Soul is to
be Sought,”
September
1740

What is this work or business which must be undertaken and accomplished in order to the salvation of men?

Answer - It is the work of seeking salvation in a way of constant observance of all the duty to which God directs us in His Word.

The scriptures have told us what particular duties must be performed by us in order to gain our salvation...

It is not sufficient that men have some respect to all the commands of God, and that they may be said to seek their salvation is some sort of observance of all the commands, but they must be devoted to it.

Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throng,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Application – Pursue Personal Holiness Every Hour of Every Day

We are already sanctified (by God)

We are being sanctified (by God)

We will be perfectly sanctified (by God)

Expel the world, and replace it with a growing affection for and devotion to our Our Precious Lord and Loving Savior, Jesus Christ, the key

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21



Eph. 4:22
Put off your old self...



Eph. 4:22
Put on your new self...

— And may the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and let your whole spirit, and soul, and body, be preserved blameless to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ..

A paraphrase by John Owen, The Nature of Sanctification and Gospel Holiness, p.430

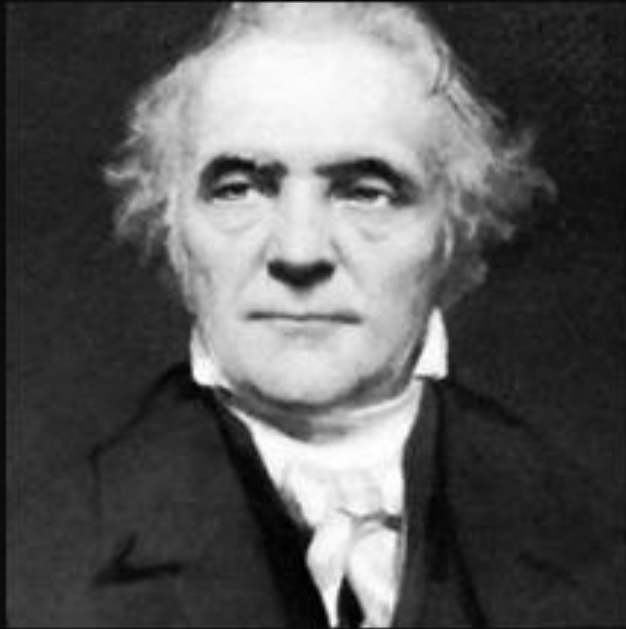
- The Author of our sanctification is God.
- It is God himself that does it, from his own grace, by himself, by his own power, and for himself, for his own glory.
- Given this consideration, he is the God of Peace.

John Owen, The Nature of Sanctification and Gospel Holiness, p.431



Thomas Chalmers

“The Expulsive Power of a New Affection.”



The best way to overcome the world is not with morality or self-discipline. Christians overcome the world by seeing the beauty and excellence of Christ. They overcome the world by seeing something more attractive than the world: Christ.

1 John 2:15:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

AZ QUOTES

- “True Christian Living, holy and right living requires a new affection for the Father as its dynamic.”
- “If we lose our first love, we will find ourselves in serious spiritual peril.”
- “Sometimes we make the mistake of substituting other things for new affections. We become active in the service of God, ecclesiastically or evangelistically, measuring our spiritual growth in terms of position achieved.”
- “Or perhaps socially, in moral or political campaigning. Perhaps, we devote ourselves to learning and measure our vitality in how “correct” our theology is.”

“Sinclair Ferguson, *In Christ Alone*, Chapter 49, *Expelling Worldliness with a New Affection*.



- “Or we mistake substituting the rules of piety for affection for the Father. Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle. The root of the matter is not on my table or neighborhood but in my heart.”

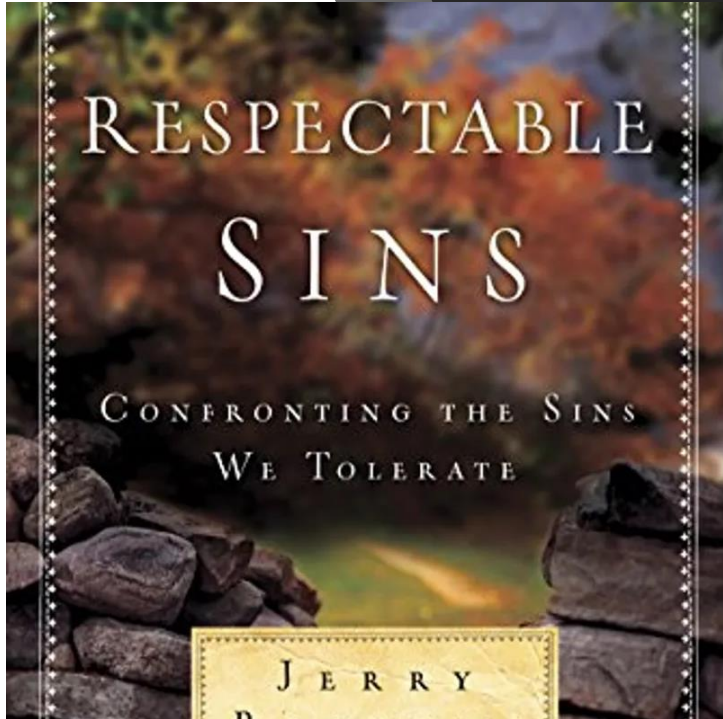
- “Only love for Christ, with all that it implies, can squeeze out the love of this world.”

- “The way in which we maintain *the expulsive power of a new affection* is the same as the way we first discovered it. Only when grace is still amazing – when we return to Christ and the cross where God’s love for us was demonstrated to us does it retain its power in us.

- “Only as we retain a sense of our own profound sinfulness can we retain a sense of the graciousness of grace.”

- ***Sinclair Ferguson, In Christ Alone, Chapter 49, Expelling Worldliness with a New Affection.***



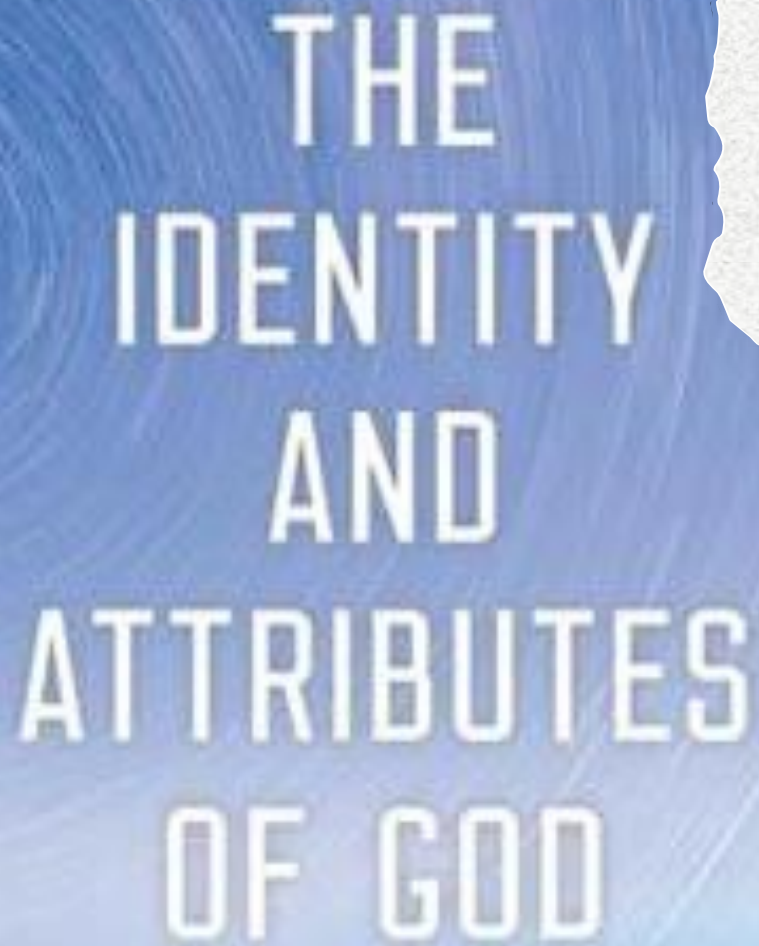


“Ungodliness may be defined as living one’s everyday life with little or no thought of God.”

“And so from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worth of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”
Colossians 1:9-10

“Everything we do is done for the glory of God. That is the mark of a godly person.”

Jerry Bridges, Respectable Sins, Ungodliness



THE IDENTITY AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

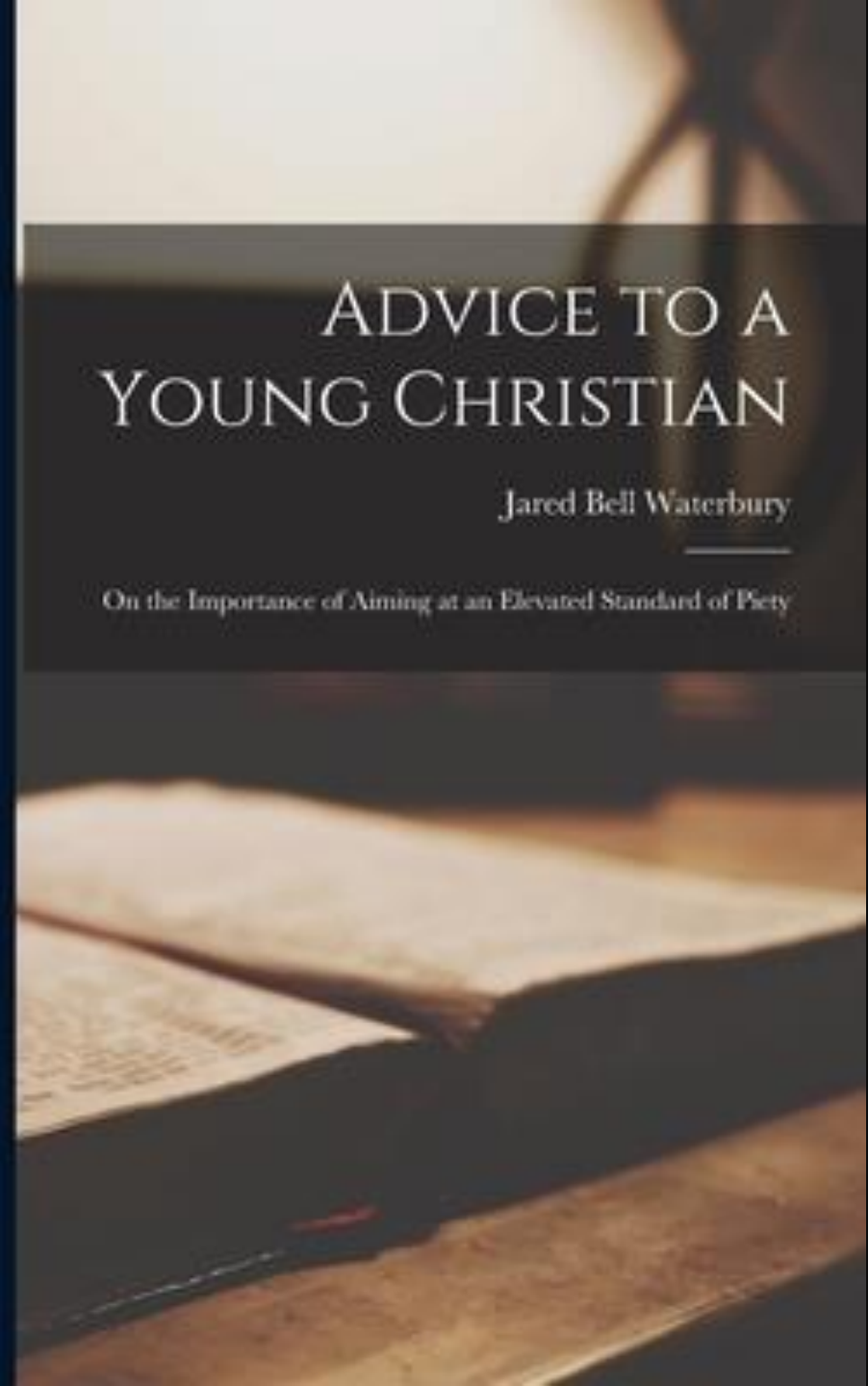
TERRY L. JOHNSON

Cost of Atonement – God’s Holiness and Ours The Identity and Attributes of God – Terry L. Johnson

- Do I have a high regard for the cost of atoning for sin?
- Do I have a serious concern about sin and the need for careful obedience?
- Do I grieve over sin or indulge it?
- Do I make grace a license to sin or a motivation for holiness?
- Are trials and temptations a stimulus to holiness or the occasion of bitterness?
- Do I cherish or ridicule holy people?
- Do we come to worship carefully prepared or without prior consideration?
- Do we love Christian discipleship, or do we think the demands of Christ are too difficult?

The Scriptures are the Great Means of Our Sanctification

- It convinces of sin.
 - It stimulates to duty.
 - It rouses from sluggishness.
 - It warns against danger.
 - It unfolds the character of God.
 - It reveals the way of salvation.
 - It delineates the providence of God.
 - It presents the Lamb of God slain for our transgressions.
 - It communicates sweet strains of spiritual devotion.
 - It brings into view a bright and eternal reward.
 - It discloses the wounds of our nature and offers the healing balm.
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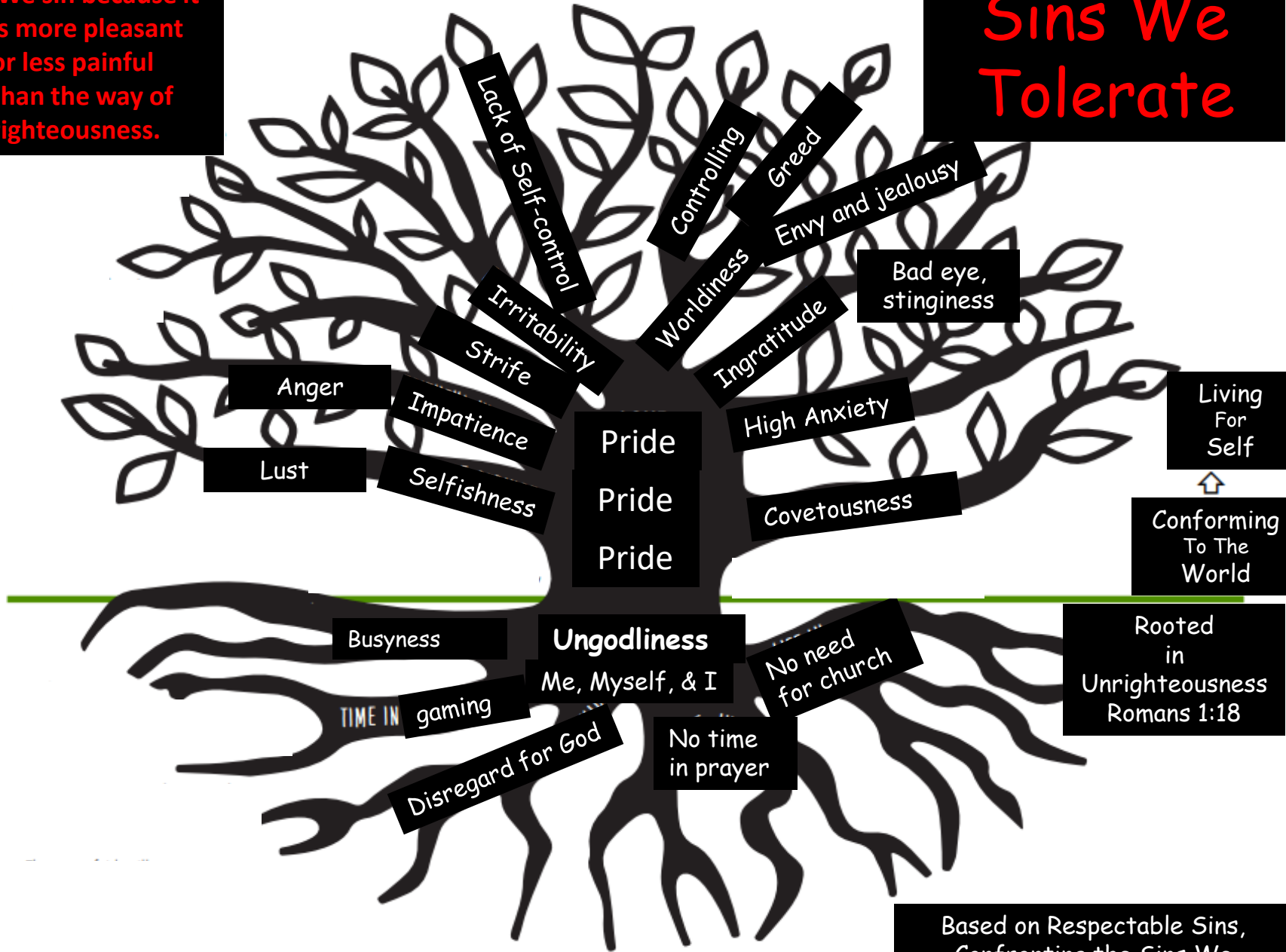


Let Not Your Heart Be Discouraged

- Our positional sanctification is just as perfect as Christ is perfect. Just as much as He is set apart, we who are in Him are set apart. It is our vital union with Christ. Positional sanctification is as complete for the poorest and weakest believer as it is for the strong and mature. Our positional sanctification depends only on our union and standing in Christ. In this standing before the Father the believer is righteous and accepted before Him forever.
- *Will Carey, AbideinChrist.com*

We sin because it is more pleasant or less painful than the way of righteousness.

Sins We Tolerate



Rooted in Unrighteousness
Romans 1:18

Based on Respectable Sins, Confronting the Sins We Tolerate, Jerry Bridges

ROOTED IN CHRIST

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night.

They are like **trees** planted along the riverbank, bearing **fruit** each season.

Ps. 1:1-3 (NLT)

