

How to ruin your spiritual health *and destroy your reputation*

Titus 1:7b

Introduction:

Who is Paul talking to here?

1- Elders 2-Anyone in leadership 3-Youth 4-Every true Christian

#1. Self-willed

Matthew 20:25 Jesus ... said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26 It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many

1 Peter 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

2 Peter 2:10 despise authority, daring, self-willed

2 Tim. 3:1-4 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, ... arrogant, ...disobedient to parents, ungrateful...3 unloving...without self-control, ...4 ...conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

Evaluate yourself; yes or no

Yes or No? Do I submit to the wishes and counsel of others, especially those who are older and wiser?

Yes or No? Am I known as the guy who must have it "his way" if he's going to play the game?

Yes or No? Am I flexible when dealing with others, so that I don't stubbornly hold onto a shaky idea (rather than back down) or adamantly keep promoting a good idea which others aren't yet prepared to accept?

Yes or No? Do I give others a fair and open hearing in hopes of learning from them?

Yes or No? Is it rare for me to admit I made a wrong turn in the past?

#2. Quick-tempered

2 Tim. 2:24 the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

Ephesians 4:26 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

John 2:13 & Mark 3:5

[1]-do not let the sun go down on your anger

[2]-do not give the devil an opportunity

Exodus 32:19 ...as soon as Moses came near the camp, he saw the calf and the dancing; Moses' anger burned

How can I stop being quick-tempered?

1st - Learn to ignore _____ disagreements

Proverbs 19:11 A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

James 1:19 let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

2nd - Avoid close _____ with anger prone people

Proverbs 22:24 Do not associate with a man given to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man, 25 Lest you learn his ways, And find a snare for yourself

3rd - Keep a close _____ over your tongue

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger

4th - Cultivate _____ in communication

Proverbs. 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy

Examine yourself, yes or no

Yes or No? Do the common "collisions" with people often make me erupt (internally or externally) with feelings of anger?

Yes or No? Do I sometimes react negatively without waiting to hear all the facts?

Yes or No? Do I quickly jump to defend my rights?

Yes or No? Am I nursing bitterness against those who've offended me? Do I carry a grudge?

Yes or No? Am I one of those guys at the softball game who blows up at the umpire and stalks off the field?

#3. Addicted to wine

1st-Does the bible _____ drinking of alcohol?

There's evidence for three usage's of wine

1-Wine was mixed with water to purify the water

1 Tim. 5:23 No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

2-Wine was mixed with water to make the wine last longer

John 2:10 Every man serves the good wine first, and when men have drunk freely, then that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now

3-Wine was consumed as a beverage by _____ and others

Luke 7:33 John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, 'He has a demon!' 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man, and a drunkard,

Romans 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.

2nd-Does the bible forbid _____ ?

Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

1 Peter 4:3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. 4 And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation

1st-Admit that alcoholism/drunkenness is _____

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.

Proverbs 23:29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine. 31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly; 32 At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your mind will utter perverse things.

2nd-Decide now to never drink again

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Hebrews 13:5 I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you

3rd-Establish new friendships and accountability

1 Cor. 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another

James 5:16 confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

4th-Balance grace, blessing and consequences

Titus 3:3 we once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

1 Cor. 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Self evaluation: yes or no

1-Do I crave a drink at a specific time each day?

2-Do I gulp my drinks and sneak extra's?

3-Do I drink to relieve feelings of inadequacy?

4-Do I drink to escape worry and to dispel the blues?

5-Do I drink when overly tired in order to 'get a grip'?

6-Is drinking affecting my peace of mind?

7-Is drinking making my home life unhappy?

8-Do I prefer to drink alone?

9-Do I require a drink the 'next morning'?

10-Do I miss time at work or am I ineffective on the job because of my drinking?

11-Is there anything I take into my body that has control over me?

#4. Pugnacious

2 Timothy 2:23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels 24 And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition

1st - Identify abuse

2nd - The reasons for abusive behavior

3rd - Stop shifting the blame

4th - Allow God to take revenge

Romans 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord

5th - Ask for forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you

Self-evaluation: yes or no

Yes or No? Am I inclined to make peace when a conflict erupts, rather than welcoming a fight?

Yes or No? Have I ever hit someone who disagreed with me or insulted me?

Yes or No? Have I ever come to blows with my wife or children? Do I sometimes "over-discipline" my children when I'm angry?

Yes or No? Do I sometimes kick a door or throw something when I'm angry and frustrated?

#5. Free from the love of money

Titus 1:11 Not only were these men' teaching things they ought not to teach, but they were doing it 'for the sake of dishonest sordid gain'

Luke 10:7 'the laborer is worthy of his wages'

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

1 Peter 5:2ff shepherd the flock of God ...not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

Examine yourself; Yes or No?

Yes or No? Does my handling of money reflect wisdom and honesty?

Yes or No? Am I quick to share with people in need, after applying wisdom to the situation?

Yes or No? Am I sometimes duped into get-rich-quick schemes?

Yes or No? Do I worry about finances and possessions? Am I depressed when my bank account gets low?

Yes or No? Do I equate success with outward gain or the development of inner strength in Christ?

Yes or No? Do I let the pursuit of wealth hinder my devotional or family life?

Yes or No? Am I more excited about a promotion at work or by a new opportunity to serve Christ?

Yes or No? Have I given up any ambition to use "ministry" as a means of building an earthly estate?