

Will Your Personality Ruin Your Life?

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Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

- I. It is painful to watch people destroy their lives, and the lives of others with their messed up and offensive personality.
 - A. Your personality – the kind of person you are is the main factor in your happiness or your misery.
 - 1. And not yours only, but the people you are around; your personality affects them as a blessing or as a curse.
 - B. I have watched as personalities have destroyed homes and families.
 - C. I have watched as personalities destroyed children and turned them into menaces to society.
 - D. I have seen personalities destroy careers, companies, and friendships.
 - E. I have watched as personalities destroyed churches and ministries.
 - F. I have seen personalities destroy mission works.
 - G. In fact, when you look at it closely, just about all the trouble and destruction in the world happen as a result of personalities.
 - H. Personality can be changed, and in fact, is changed by the influence of others on us.
 - I. If personality can be changed then it ought to be changed when it is destructive and offensive and a curse to others and ourselves.
 - J. But most people confuse individuality and personality.
 - 1. They believe their personality is what makes them a unique individual, but it is individuality that ruins the personality.
 - K. Individuality is our claim to the right to ourselves and it is the root cause of a foul and wretched personality.
 - L. Basically, individuality is selfishness and the habitual putting of ourselves before others, in our actions, our conversation, and in our mind.
 - 1. Some people give and do things for others and appear to be benevolent, but their murmuring while they are doing it reveals the true attitude of their heart.
 - 2. Others are openly and habitually bitter, suspicious, and hateful toward others.
 - M. Individuality always makes everyone else the enemy, or a potential enemy, in your mind.

Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

- N. The consequences when a person makes their individuality their personality are very tragic and are multiplied from generation to generation.
- O. Your personality is what others perceive you to be and your individuality is what you think you are.
- P. Most people live in the fantasy that others see them as they see themselves.
 - 1. They live their life in this delusion and make a mess of things for themselves and for their offspring for generations.

- Q. The new birth unites our personality with Christ and transforms our individuality so that it is about being conformed to Christ instead of trying to be the god of the universe.
1. I am a unique individual committed to Christ and available for his use as He sees fit, and my personality is under the influence of his personality more than anyone or anything else in this physical world, or the spiritual realm.
- II. The attitude of this ungodly and untoward generation is that you cannot change yourself, and you should not have to – that people must accept you for what you are.
- A. This is a lie upside down and backwards.
 - B. It is largely because of the teaching of the inherent sinful nature and the inability of man in the churches.
 1. This generation has been taught that they cannot change and Jesus cannot change them – everyone is just what they are and we are morally obligated to accept everyone just as they are and not judge them.
 2. It is always some kind of racism or discrimination or injustice to even think that people can be changed and turned away from their destructive thinking and living.
 - C. No one has any kind of moral obligation to accept the sinful, hateful, selfish, wicked, arrogant ways of a wretched self-centered person.
 - D. And anybody can and should change the things about them that make them a bane and a pain in other people's lives.
 - E. If your body is filthy and you stink you can take a bath and fix that problem.
 - F. If your language is filthy and offensive to others you can stop using the filthy language.
 - G. If you are loud and obnoxious you can lower your voice and stop talking and let someone else talk.
 - H. If you are disrespectful, haughty, and rude to others you can stop being that way and start being thoughtful, considerate, and respectful.
 - I. Everyone either refreshes others or drains them when he shows up, and no one else decides what kind of person you are going to be but you yourself.
 - J. Having an offensive and destructive personality is the result of an undisciplined mind forming bad mental habits.
 1. It starts as soon as a child starts thinking and communicating with others.
 2. He develops attitudes and dispositions toward other people that are kind and thoughtful and benevolent, or full of frustration, malice, and contempt, and this is mostly by the examples he is watching in the home in which he lives.
 3. These quickly become the habit of his thinking and so his personality either becomes sweet and pleasant, or it becomes bitter and hateful and he is trouble everywhere he goes.
 4. If his personality develops into this latter kind he will face rejection everywhere he goes which will only add to his bitterness and contempt for others.
 5. So he is destructive to himself and to all those around him and when it is all said and done it would have been better if he had never lived.
 - K. Habits can be formed and habits can be changed.
 - L. A bad personality is simply bad habits of thinking.

- III. Personalities are made from the influence of others.
- A. Our personality is formed mostly by the examples that are before us.
 - B. People are very easily influenced by those around them and pick up attitudes, language, mannerisms, and moodiness and imitate it until it becomes who they are.
 - C. Loud, hateful, angry parents will have loud, hateful, angry children almost 100 per cent of the time.
 - 1. They will also have children that are mental and social wrecks looking for a place to happen.
 - D. Kind, soft-spoken, gentle parents will generally have children that are the same, but not always.
 - 1. The bad influence of others may win out in these children sometimes because of the fact that sin abounds in this world.
- IV. What we need to realize is the importance of our personality and how it can be the ruination of our life and the lives of our loved ones, and others.
- A. Nothing affects our life more than our personality.
 - B. The way others perceive us, and the effect we have on others, determines the worth of our life here on earth and our reward or punishment in eternity.
 - C. Our personality – the impression and concept that we leave in other people’s minds with our words, our deeds, our attitudes, our disposition toward others – is what defines what we are to other people.

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

- D. It is the personality that we love or hate – not the individual.
 - 1. Love is the fellowship of different personalities.
- E. As long as we maintain our right to ourselves we are not partakers of God’s love.
 - 1. We cannot love others until we quit loving ourselves supremely.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- F. If this is really true of us it will show in our personality and others will notice and be affected for good and drawn to God themselves by it.

Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

- G. Being born again through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the answer for a wretched personality and by changing our personality and individuality, it also changes the world around us.

Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Ephesians 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

- 1. Out with the old and in with the new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2. Out with the old man who is corrupt according to deceitful lusts.

Colossians 3:8-10 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

3. In with the new man who loves and is lovable, and who's influence is an asset to the kingdom of God on this earth instead of a detriment.

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.