

## **“Controlling The Inner Beast” \* August 12, 2007**

### **Proverbs 9:1-6**

#### *I. How the inner beast almost took me down*

*Does sin affect our experience of God?*

**Absolutely! As long as sin keeps having its way with us, God’s going to seem all that close. We’re going to feel guilty, we’re going to be miserable, we’re going to start saying to ourselves, “Oh this Christianity thing just doesn’t work.”**

#### *II. Basic principles of learning to control sin:*

##### *A. Controlling the beast of sin is a process.*

###### *1. Building a life is like building a home.*

**It’s done in stages. First, demolition. Then the foundation is laid. Then the walls, wiring, etc.**

##### *B. Controlling the beast of sin is hard work.*

**Time does not heal or bring strength. Building a marriage that is strong and life-giving – takes hard work. Overcoming a nasty habit that’s been part of you for years – it’s hard. Developing spiritual discipline – not easy.**

##### *C. Controlling the beast is accessible to anyone.*

###### *1. Why do the rich & powerful have a hard time coming to Christ?*

**The rich and the educated use their wealth and learning to cover up the fact that their lives are a mess. It blinds them from seeing that they are in as desperate a need for Jesus as anyone else. “How hard it is for the rich to inherit the kingdom of God,” Jesus said. “You’ve got to become like a child to enter God’s kingdom.” The rich, the smart, the powerful, the beautiful cannot bring themselves to show that kind of humility, and so in their pride they turn away from Jesus, the only one who can help them.**

#### *III. The Steps Solomon Laid Out In Proverbs 9:5-6 For Learning To Control The Beast Of Sin:*

##### *A. “Come...” – We come to Jesus*

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matt.11:28-29)

###### *1. To come to Jesus you...*

###### *a. Come as you are.*

**You don’t say, “I can’t come to Jesus. I’m weary and burdened. He doesn’t want a mess like me.” You got it all wrong. It’s precisely because you’re weary and burdened that Jesus wants you to come. You don’t clean up your act to come to Jesus. You come to him to clean up your act.**

###### *b. Come and don’t run away away.*

**Too many people come to Christ out of their need, then as soon as that need eases up, or this Christian-thing gets too demanding or too boring, they’re gone. Or they mess up, then give up. They fail, and bail. That won’t cut it.**

##### *B. “Eat my food...” – We let Jesus nourish our souls.*

###### *1. Which will be stronger in you: the beast of your sin nature, or the new spiritual nature God gives me?*

**It depends which one you feed the most.**

###### *2. What does Jesus give us to nourish us?*

###### *1. The Word of God.*

###### *2. The Holy Spirit of God.*

###### *3. The People of God.*

##### *C. “And drink the wine I have mixed...” – Be ready to suffer.*

###### *1. “Drinking the cup” is a metaphor for what?*

**Suffering.**

###### *2. When Jesus comes into my life, is he just going to ‘add on a room’ or apply a fresh coat of religious paint to me?*

When you come to Christ and give him your life, Jesus is not just going to add on a room to the building of your life, or splash on a fresh coat of religious paint, so that you look good. That's not Christianity. When Jesus Christ comes into your life, he wants to tear your house down to the bare studs and rebuild your life from the ground up. He wants to dig down to the very foundation of your life.

3. *What's he going to do?*

We have all these faithless, liberal church running around today boasting how they are “accepting and affirming” – those words are proof-positive that these are fallen churches preaching a false gospel. Jesus is accepting, yes; but he did not die on that cross to affirm your sinful ways, he died on that cross to destroy your sinful nature. To put it to death. “Accepting and annihilating” would be the more biblical motto. Jesus loves you the way you are, but never leaves you the way you are.

D. *“Leave your simple ways and you will live...” – We learn to make **repentance** a lifestyle.*

1. *Is repentance just a once-and-done thing?*

It's what we said earlier. Learning to control the beast, living a new life in Christ is a process that takes time and is hard work.

2. *What do we allow Jesus to do daily with us?*

“If anyone would be by disciple,” Jesus said, “he must pick up his cross daily and follow me.” Daily, as we spend time with Jesus, we ask him to search us, try us, cleanse us – and when he brings something to light through his Word, or through the voice of His Spirit, or through the influence of our traveling companions – we face it, we acknowledge it, we confess it, we're ruthlessly honest with ourselves, and then we ask for his help in overcoming it.

E. *“Walk in the way of understanding.” – You begin enjoying the freedom of a **trained**, disciplined heart.*

1. *To reach this place, my sins must be:*

a. **covered** through repentance.

b. **unlearned** through training.