

“I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate.” – ROMANS 7:15, NLT

WHAT IS THE “THING” THAT MAKES US THIS WAY?

I. EveryTHING we do is connected to our _____

- Wants don’t care whether we _____ them or not
- Wants are all about _____ not actions

“Understanding the centrality of wants — or goals, expectations, dreams, values, yearnings, ambitions, intentions, hankerings, objectives, targets, hopes, aims, longings, attitudes, proclivities, missions, standards, motives, purposes, plans, specifications, benchmarks, aspirations, desires, needs, passions, inclinations, wishes, and cravings — will help you get more of what you want, or strive for, more often. It will also help you understand those times you might be perplexed because you did something you were sure you didn’t want to do...If you want to understand (there’s another want) why you acted in a particular way, think about the result, not the behavior.” – TIMOTHY A CARNEY, PH.D.

II. The Bible calls unhealthy, unholy wants _____

- Sin is _____
- Sin is living in a way _____ what God intends

“I have discovered this principle of life—that when I **want** to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the **sin** that is still within me.” – ROMANS 5:8, NLT

JOHN WESLEY’S THREE STAGES OF GRACE

1. _____ Grace

“God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” – ROMANS 5:8, NLT

“Prevenient grace can be described as the work of the Holy Spirit in drawing us to God.”*

2. _____ Grace

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” – EPHESIANS 2:8-9, NLT

“Justification is about listening to God, who declares through Jesus’ obedient faith that we are forgiven. We receive this gift of forgiveness when we believe in Jesus.”*

3. _____ Grace

“Let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding.” – HEBREWS 6:1, NLT

“Holiness should affect every part of our lives, changing the ways we speak, think, and respond to others; it should help us to watch the attitudes we harbor.”*

GOD’S SANCTIFYING GRACE WANTS TO MAKE US

1. _____

2. _____

3. Spiritually _____

→ God wants to _____ our wants!

WE NEED THE COURAGE AND THE CURIOSITY TO ASK:

1. What triggers our wants?
2. Where do we go when we get triggered?

“Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.” – ROMANS 7:24-25, NLT

* Holiness Today: a magazine for everyday faith (<https://holinesstoday.org>)