

The Ultimate Pattern: Jesus Christ

Servanthood

"For I gave you an example that you should always do as I did to you."— John 13:15

Suffering

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps... while suffering. He... kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously...— 1 Peter 2:21-23

Mindset

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who... emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant...— Philippians 2:5-7

Self-Denial

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

— Luke 9:23

Obedience to the Word

The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked...

— I John 2:6

Hated by the World

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you; if they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also."— John 15:18-20

Other Good Examples

God-honoring Spiritual Care

I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children... I exhort you therefore, be imitators of me.

— 1 Corinthians 4:14,16

God-honoring Evangelism

Just as I... not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

— 1 Corinthians 10:33-11:1

God-honoring Pursuits

Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

— Philippians 3:17

God-honoring Life Patterns

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things...

— Philippians 4:9

God-honoring Faith in Difficult Times

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation... so that you became an example to all the believers...

— I Thessalonians 1:6-7

We desire that each one of you show the same diligence... imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.— Hebrews 6:11-12

God-honoring Reception of His Word

When you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it... for what it really is... For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Jesus Christ...

— 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14

God-honoring Motives and Walk

You... know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner... in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example.— 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

God-honoring Leaders

Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.— Hebrews 13:7

God-honoring Suffering

As an example... of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

— James 5:10

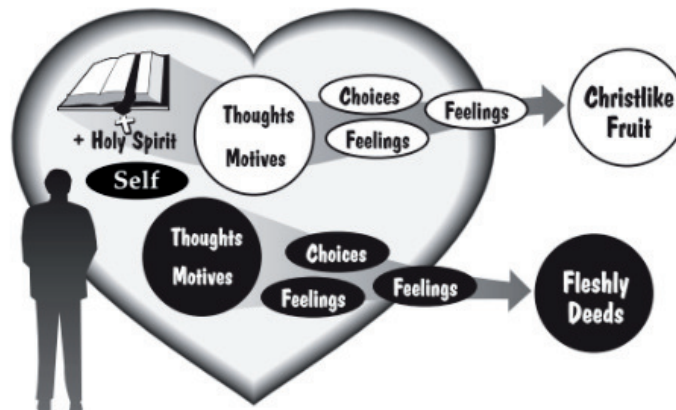
Commands To Be An Example	
<p>All Believers Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us...— Ephesians 5:1-2</p> <p>Young Men Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith</p>	<p>and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe... — 1 Timothy 4:12</p> <p>Elders Therefore, I exhort the elders among you... shepherd the flock of God among you... proving to be examples to the flock...— 1 Peter 5:1-3</p>

Poor Examples	
<p>Israel — Example of Sinful Lusts Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved... Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. — 1 Corinthians 10:6,11</p> <p>Israel — Example of Disobedience Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience... — Hebrews 4:11</p>	<p>Sodom & Gomorrah — Examples of Immorality Just as Sodom & Gomorrah... are exhibited as an example, in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. — Jude 7</p> <p>Evil Doers — Examples of Ungodliness Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.— 3 John 11</p>

Example Thoughts to Renew

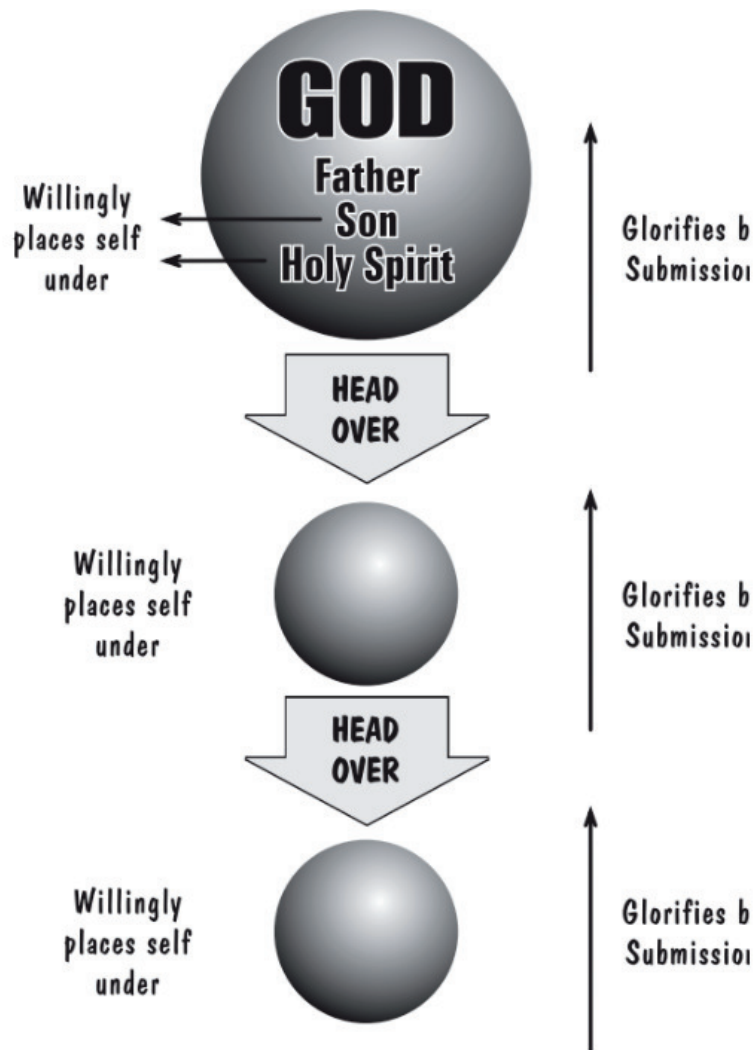
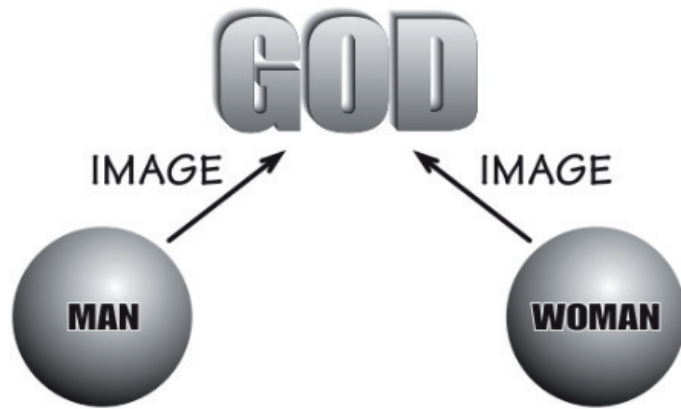
Sinful Thoughts, Void of God	Thankful, Trusting, Hopeful Thoughts
I've had it! I can't take this job anymore. (discouragement / giving up)	Lord, You know all about this difficult situation. Thank you that I have a job and that you can help me to endure. I pray that you might supply a different job if that is best. (Philippians 2:14; 4:13)
I just want to be left alone. (selfishness)	Lord, You know I don't feel like giving right now but I thank you that I have a family and that you can give me your strength. Help me to serve you and others now. (Philippians 2:3-4)
What if I lose my job? (worry)	Lord, I pray that I don't lose my job but if I do, I know that you will somehow provide. I thank you that you are faithful and in control. I trust you. (Matthew 6:25-34)

Sinful Thoughts to Replace				
Put Off I need to stop...	Put On I need to start...	When I need to practice when...	Thoughts I need to renew...	Where Temptation Begins I need to avoid...
<p><u>Being angry:</u></p> <p>Speaking: - Mean words</p> <p>- Raised voice - Harsh tone</p> <p>- Angry face</p> <p>Verses: Ps. 37:8 Eph. 4:31 Pr. 29:11a</p>	<p><u>Being gentle and self-controlled:</u></p> <p>Speak with: - Only words that edify</p> <p>- Gentle tone of voice</p> <p>- Kind face</p> <p>Verses: I Thess. 2:7 Eph. 4:29 Pr. 29:11b</p>	I am very tired	"This is my time to rest and relax!"	A lack of sleep
		The children are disobedient	"I can't handle this!"	Being slack in training my children
		I need to do something and I'm being hindered	"Leave me alone! I can't do anything anymore!"	Over-committing myself
		Someone sins against me	"How dare they!"	Expecting good treatment and respect



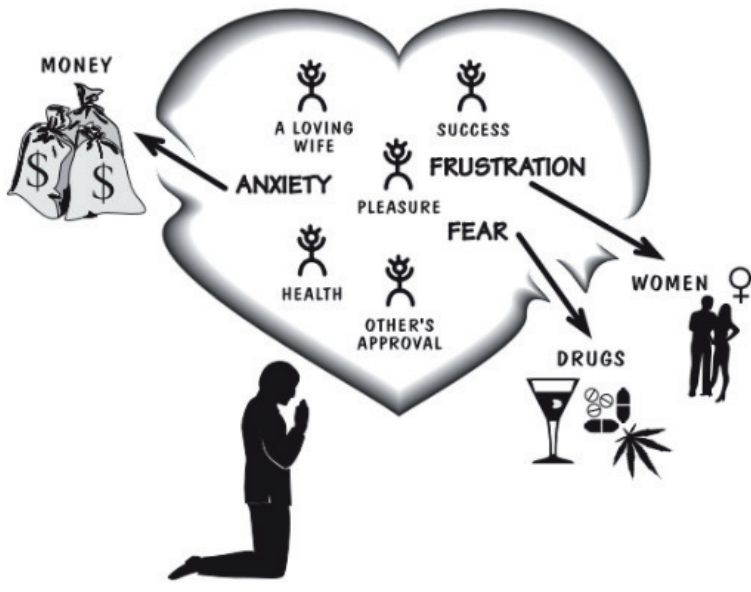
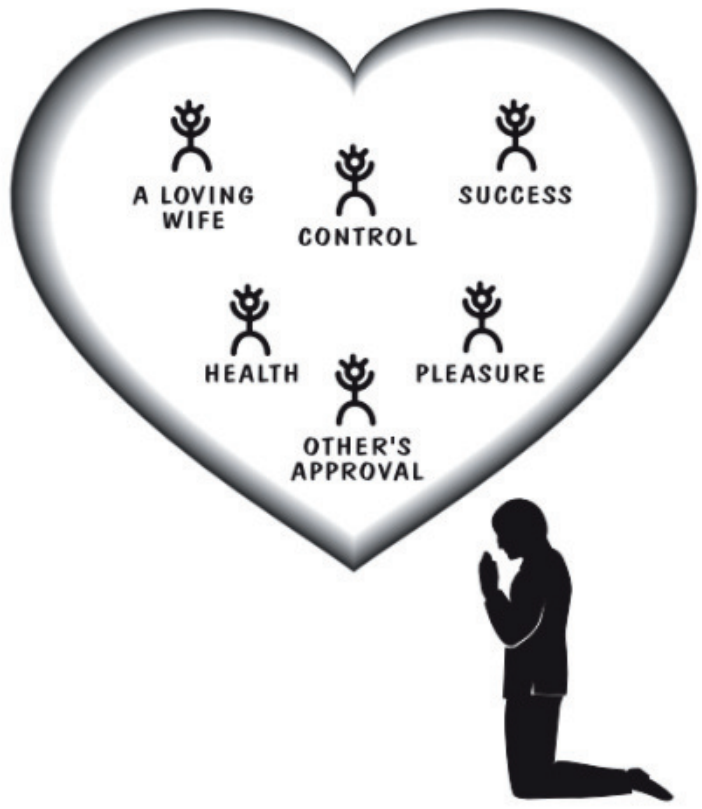
- A willingness to deny self (Mark 14:32-36; Philippians 2:5-9).
- Honor and respect—though equality exists (John 8:49; 2 Peter 1:17).
- Submission to an order of authority—though equality exists (John 8:28-29; 14:31; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 11:3).
- Humility (John 16:14; Philippians 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 11:3).
- Unity (Deuteronomy 6:4; John 10:30, 38; 14:10-11, 23; 17:11).
- Uniqueness of Personhood—three distinct Persons (Luke 3:21-22; John 1:31-34; 14:23-26; Acts 5:3-4).
- Perfect communication (John 8:28; 15:15; 16:13; 2 Peter 1:17).
- Involvement and cooperation (Genesis 1:26; Luke 4:1; John 14:23; Colossians 1:12-20).
- Knowledge of the other Persons (Matthew 11:27; John 8:55; 15:15; 1 Corinthians 2:10).
- Expressions of thankfulness (Matthew 11:25; 15:36; 26:27; Luke 10:21; John 11:41).
- Verbal expressions of love (John 10:17; 14:31; 15:9; 17:23; Romans 5:5).
- Visible expressions of love, goodness, blessing and service (John 15:9-10; 17:4,23; Romans 15:3; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 1:19).
- Truthfulness/Trustworthiness (John 3:33; 14:17; Titus 1:1-2; Hebrews 6:18).
- Utmost concern for God's truth and glory (John 16:14; 17:1,5,24).

GOD'S TRUTH
A
Biblical
Relationship
ENDURING LOVE



The Pattern of Ephesians Five			
Christ/Husband		Church/Wife	
:22-24,30	Presides as Head	:22,24	Follows as a respectful submissive body
:25,28,33	Pursues to actively love (sacrificially giving his own life for her) includes 'protecting' and 'cherishing'	:24,33	Honors and serves Christ's/husband's righteous goals
:29	Provides physically and spiritually— includes 'nourishes'	:29,30	Depends on, looks to, wisely uses resources to give back and serve





GOD

**For God's
Glory**

**THE
SPECIFIC
HOW**

Displayed:

In a variety of ways
According to need and preference
According to biblical wisdom

**In keeping with God's definition
and determination**

**THE
BASIC
HOW,
WHEN,
WHERE,
AND
WHY**

Determined:

According to God's Word
Not open for personal decision

**By the power of the Holy Spirit
all the time, everywhere to please Christ**

**THE
BASIC
WHAT**

Defined:

According to God's Word
Not open for personal interpretation
Timeless and Cross-cultural

**A selfless and enduring commitment of the will to care
about and benefit another person by righteous, truthful
and compassionate thoughts, words and actions.**

LOVE ACCORDING TO GOD

Wrong	Right
To serve self To feel good about self To get love or favors	To show God's kind of love with no goal of personal benefit To glorify and bless God

Proud thoughts to put off:	Loving thoughts to put on:
<i>Self-focused:</i> Why doesn't she think of me more? Why isn't she doing _____ for me?	<i>Others-focused:</i> How can I think of her now? What can I do for her?
My life is so hard. She should _____	God will help me—how can I bless her?
I'll never be what I should be, why even try? Woe is me.	Lord, help me to please you by being the husband I should be. Thank You that You promise to help me grow.
<i>Selfish:</i> I will do this if she will _____.	<i>Selfless:</i> I'm going to do this just to bless her and for You, Lord.
I want to do what I want to do.	What would she like to do?
I don't want to _____.	I don't feel like _____, but I will because I want to love You, Lord, and her.

What's in it for me?	I want nothing in return.
This is an inconvenience to me.	Christ was inconvenienced for me. I'll be inconvenienced.
She should do it my way.	What would she like? I can prefer her and still do Your will, so I will.
I'm tired. I'm not going to _____.	I'm tired. Lord, give the strength to continue loving and giving.
<i>Arrogant:</i> She gets on my nerves. She is so _____ (negative trait).	<i>Humble:</i> She is, (positive trait). Everyone (especially me) has their weaknesses.
She doesn't know anything. I don't need her or anyone's input.	She has a lot to offer. I need to listen to her. I don't know everything.
I'm a real catch, a gift. What's her problem? She should appreciate me more.	If she has a problem with me maybe I need to learn and change. She probably has a point.
I know I'm right. Anyone who doesn't agree with me is wrong. I don't need this.	I will listen, consider and study God's Word and think about it. I could very well be wrong.

I'm fine. I've been faithful in everything.	I have not been completely faithful. God sets the standard. I must grow in faithfulness.
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Proud actions to put off:	Loving actions to put on:
Bragging about my goodness, good qualities, or accomplishments	Thanking God for any good in me or that is accomplished through me
Waiting or looking for her to love me or do for me first	Initiating affection and other acts of love
Just pointing out her wrong-doing and not mine	Focusing on my wrong-doing
Not asking what my wife would like but choosing what brings me pleasure or allows me to avoid discomfort or effort	Asking what she would like; suffering discomfort for the sake of love and pleasing God
Planning my day off around me	Considering my wife and her desires when planning my only day off
Rejecting or tuning out my wife's input or admonishments	Listening to what she has to say, asking questions and committing to think about it, pray about it, and/or study it out—whatever applies; then getting back to her about it

Fearful thoughts to put off:	Loving thoughts to put on:
If I do or say that, she will get mad.	If she gets mad, I will deal with it God's way.

She's going to find someone else. I'm going to isolate her.	I will believe the best of her, and let her carry on life in a normal fashion
If I give an inch, she'll take a mile.	I will love her and do what I can for her
I have to be in control and keep her dependent or I might lose her.	God is in control. I don't need to control her. I need to love her.

Fearful actions to put off:	Loving actions to put on:
Staying quiet when I should speak	Speaking up and facing any consequences for God's glory
Being jealous and controlling to protect my interests	Letting her have other interests and other people in her life
Doing something to keep her happy and/or happy with me	Doing loving things to please God and show His kind of love to her

Bitter thoughts to put off:	Loving thoughts to put on:
I've had it! If she does _____ one more time, that's it. Phooey on her. I'm going to leave her!	I will keep loving her. Christ loved me when I didn't deserve it. My love is forever; no matter what.
I'll show her. I'll get even with her.	I will return good for evil. My

	love does not depend on her love. I have promised before God to love her.
I'll never forgive her for that. She doesn't deserve it.	God forgave me and says I must, therefore, forgive others. I have sinned against her too. She is just acting sinfully because she is not in a right place with God. I will choose to show love to her even if she may not deserve it and I will be willing to say, "I forgive you," when she repents and asks.
She did that deliberately to hurt me or embarrass me.	I need to believe the best and ask her about that.
I'm not going to do anything for her or love her. Look at what she is doing or at what she has done to me.	I will love her with Christ's kind of love no matter what she has done. And, I will seek to help her turn away from sin.

Bitter actions to put off:	Loving actions to put on:
Cutting my wife down to others or to her face	Saying good things about her
Not believing the best of my wife Holding her past sin against her	Thinking the best of her and remembering that I forgave her for the past
Planning or doing wicked or vengeful things so that my wife suffers	Planning what I will not do when she sins against me.
Continuing to think negative thoughts about my wife	Planning thankful thoughts to think about my wife

Refusing to do loving things for my wife	Planning loving things to do for my wife and then doing them
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Preoccupied thoughts to put off:	Loving thoughts to put on:
I'm too busy to talk, pray, or spend time with her.	She is more important. God's priority will be my priority. I will show her love.
I have too many things on my mind to handle another thing.	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I will put forth the effort (even though I don't feel like it) because I love her and God.
This is more important (when it is not) or I have to do this (when I don't).	I will let go of what I want to do and do the more important thing. I will have God's viewpoint.
God has called me to my ministry, not to be caught up with relational things with my wife.	My ministry to my wife qualifies me for other ministry. God is relational. I am committed to her and our relationship.

Preoccupied actions to put off:	Loving actions to put on:
Ignoring problems	Talking to my wife about issues and seeking biblical solutions

Neglecting my wife	Planning time with her and putting that time before other things
Not praying with and for my wife	Planning time to pray for and with her
Over-extending myself	Cutting back on whatever I can to make the time that is needed to love her as I should and thereby strengthen our marriage

The Natural Man*	The Spiritual Man*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Self-confident •Knows men •Makes own decisions •Ambitious •Originates own methods •Enjoys commanding others •Motivated by personal considerations •Independent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Confident in God •Also knows God •Seeks to find God's will •Self-effacing [to erase self or make self inconspicuous] •Finds and follows God's methods •Delights to obey God •Motivated by love for God and man •God-dependent

PUT OFF:

Sin

Evidences

- **Pride**
 - Not being dependent on God's help.
 - Not being teachable concerning stewardship areas.
 - Being defensive when approached about unfaithfulness.
 - Not searching God's Word, seeking godly counsel, or getting input from your wife concerning stewardship areas because of a "know-it-all" or "I'm fine" mentality.
 - Giving a false appearance of faithfulness around others.

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.

Proverbs 18:12

- **Selfishness**
 - Caring more about your own desires and preferences than about God's desires and others' needs or wants.

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

- **Idolatry**
 - Sacrificing faithfulness to acquire or serve something that you worship.

Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

1 John 5:21

- **Laziness**
 - Not wanting to work at faithfulness.
 - Only doing what is required if it's not hard or you're not tired.
 - Choosing to relax, or sleep rather than to do what you know you should do (when you are able to do it).
 - Procrastination.

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat.

Proverbs 13:4

- **Irresponsibility**
 - Not being dependable; not keeping your word.
 - Choosing recreation, entertainment, or what you prefer to do instead of what is responsible and faithful.

- Wastefulness.
- Being late (without legitimate reason).
- Not thinking through God's priority that we do good works.

Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot is confidence in a faithless man in times of trouble.
Proverbs 25:19

- **Man-pleasing**
 - "Keeping the peace" at all cost.
 - Not doing what God wants because some one else may not like it, which may result in conflict or not being accepted or liked.

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.
Galatians 1:10

PUT ON:

Righteousness

Evidences

1. **Repentance**
 - Pinpoint an area that God has entrusted to you in which you know you need to be more faithful.
 - Begin to search God's Word and seek godly counsel (including your spouse if she is biblically minded) concerning this area.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalm 139:23-24

2. **Study**
 - Study and meditate daily on Scriptures that pertain to this area.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.

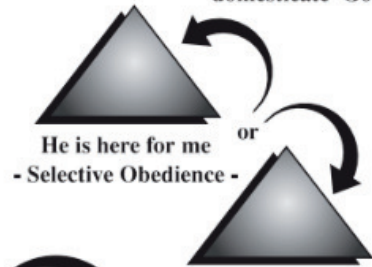
Psalm 119:9-11

<p>3. Prayer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray daily that God will help you to change in this area. <p>Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases to be, for the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. They speak falsehood to one another; with flattering lips and with a double heart they speak. Psalm 12:1,2</p>
<p>4. Renewing your mind</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine what thinking you need to change. <p>And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind Romans 12:2a</p>
<p>5. Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a specific plan as to how you are going to follow God's principles (a put-off and put-on plan). <p>The night is almost gone and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. Romans 13:12-14</p>
<p>6. Accountability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain accountability from a brother in Christ if you are not making consistent headway. <p>Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:1-2</p>

ANTHROPOCENTRIC

"THE MASTER'S MINDSET" = High & Blinded

seeking to
'domesticate' God



"FROM"
ME



- please me
- serve me
- respect me
- meet my needs



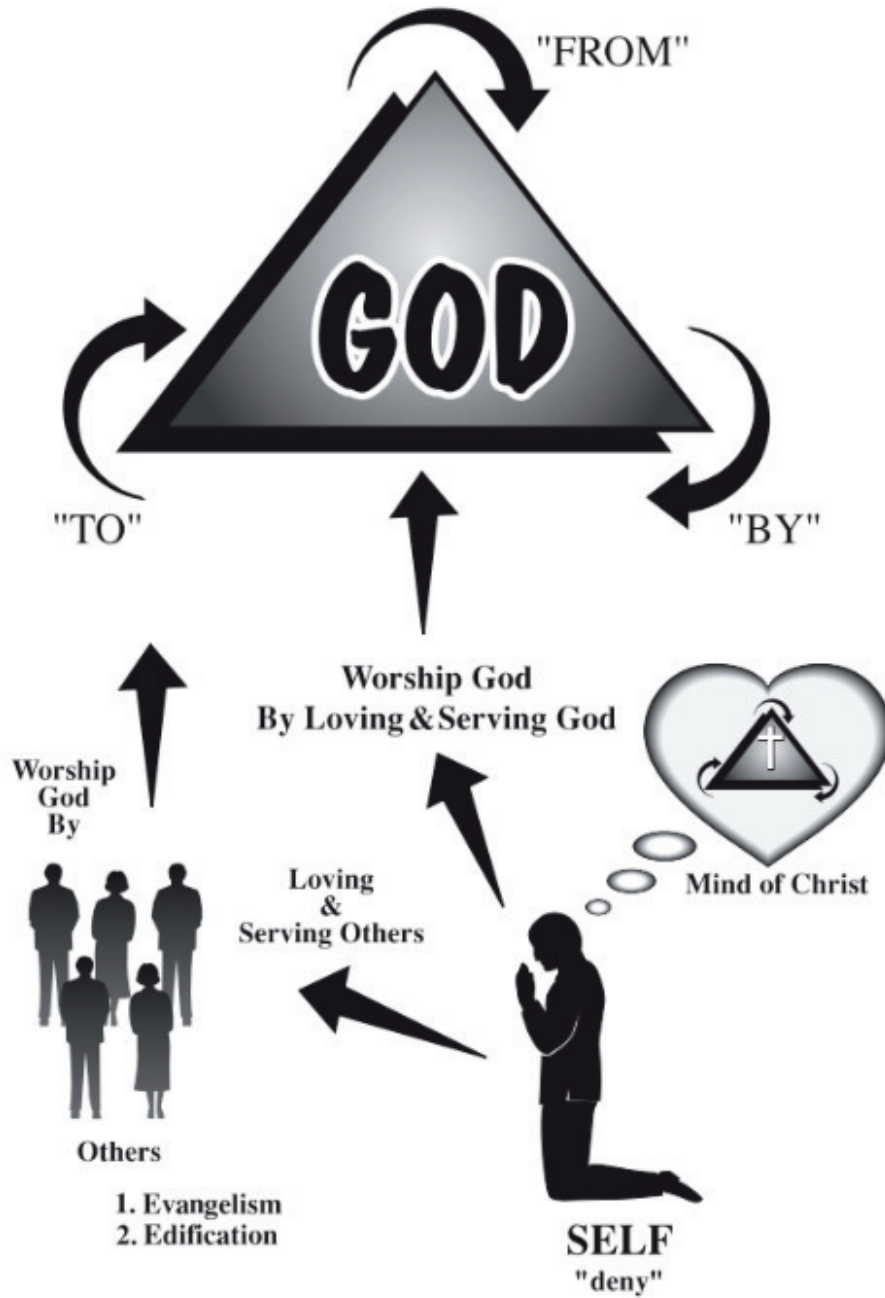
Others

- judge
- criticize
- impress
- manipulate

SELF
"exalt"

THEOCENTRIC

"the SERVANT'S MINDSET" = Low & Sober-Minded



ATTITUDE	PRIDE	HUMILITY
Outlook:	Epidemic	Endangered
Terms:	High, Lifted Up, Blind	Low, Bowed Down, Sober
Mindset: (attitude of)	Self: The Master	Jesus Christ: The Servant
Source of Good:	From Me	From God
Means of Good:	By/Through Me	By/Through God
Goal of Good:	To Me	To God
Honor:	Self-Imposed	God-Bestowed
Confidence:	Self-Sufficient	Christ-Sufficient
Others:	Conditional/Trading Affection (looked down upon)	Unconditional/Sacrificial (preferred) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvation • Sanctification

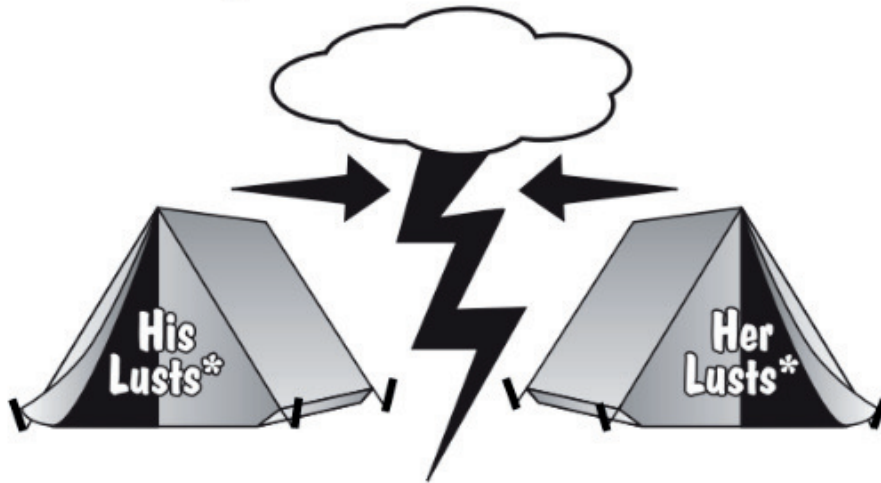
Examples of Clear Sin	Examples of Questionable Issues
Your wife blatantly lies to you about the finances (Ephesians 4:25).	Your wife goes shopping at a store that is normally more expensive than your budget allows and her purchase may not have been the wisest one.
Your wife screams at you in anger and says "Would you just get out of here and leave me alone?! I'm tired, and you are irritating me" (Ephesians 4:26-29).	While you are trying to explain something to her, you notice that your wife seems to be irritated and does not answer you as nicely as she could.
Your wife repeatedly tells you that she will not have sexual relations with you because she doesn't have desires (1 Corinthians 7:3-5).	Your wife refuses to participate in a certain sexual activity with you until she knows it is right before God.
Your wife watches <i>all</i> the soap operas on television <i>each afternoon</i> instead of doing her work (Proverbs 18:9; Titus 2:3-5).	Your wife has a favorite television show that she doesn't like to miss, but you think watching television is a waste of time.

Encamped Lusts



1 Peter 5:5 God is opposed to the PROUD

Quarrels and Conflicts



Selfish Desires:

- My Way
- My Feelings
- My Rights
- My Expectations
- My Needs
- My Plans

PROUD and Fleshly

Selfish Desires:

- My Way
- My Feelings
- My Rights
- My Expectations
- My Needs
- My Plans

PROUD and Fleshly

*Lusts = Evil Desires and/or good desires turned lustful

Entrusted
Desires



Grace to the
humble
1 Peter 5:5

Give
to



Give
to



Concerned for:
Her Way
Her Feelings
Her Rights
Her Expectations
Her Needs
Her Plans

Humble



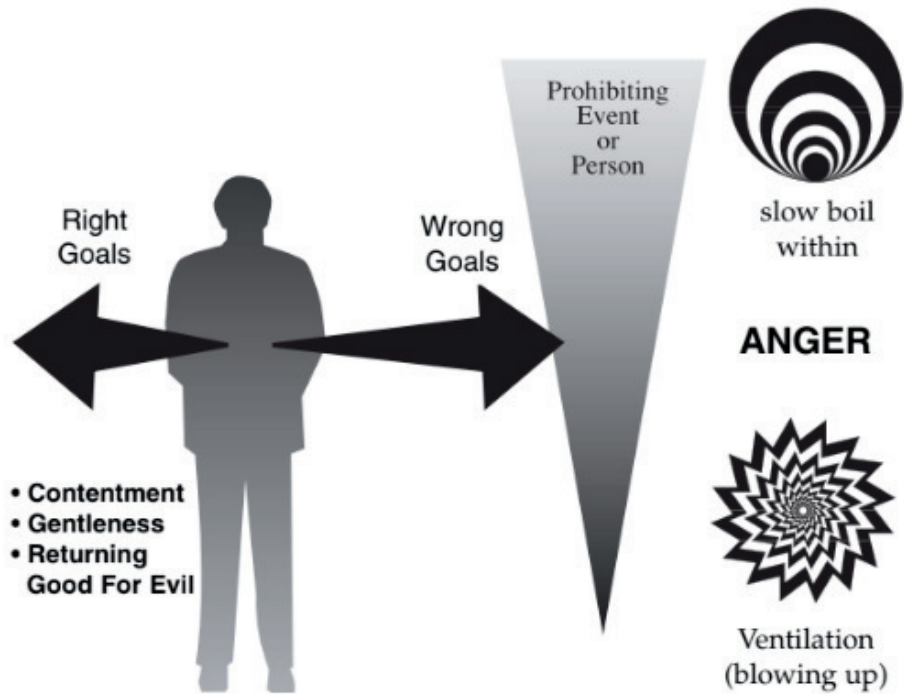
Concerned for:
His Way
His Feelings
His Rights
His Expectations
His Needs
His Plans

Humble

Thoughts that lead to conflict:	Thoughts that avoid conflict:
<p>That's ridiculous! I <i>will</i> have my way! How dare she! I will not be treated this way!</p>	<p>She may have a point. I don't have to have my way. I need to pray for her. How can I return good to her?</p>

Vented Anger	The Slow Burn
<p>Yelling/screaming Slamming things around Cursing Telling someone off Attacking verbally/name-calling Hitting</p>	<p>Clamming up/moodiness Being frustrated Being irritated Being disgusted Glaring Huffing/snorting</p>

The Cause of Anger



Right Goals

- Respond to problems in God's way or accept them as from God
- Uphold God's reputation/care what God thinks of me
- Serve others/help others, but leave them in God's hands
- Do what God wants me to do
- Pile up treasures in heaven
- Trust in God's control

Wrong Goals

(Wicked desires or desires turned to goals)

- Others doing right
- No difficulty (self-focus)
- Problem removed (self-focus)
- Good treatment/respect (from Others) (pride)
- Personal rights observed
- Others good opinion/ approval (pride)
- Wealth/material thing (selfishness)
- Control (self-focus/pride)
- Being better/being best or right (pride)
- Fulfilling a desire or plan/ getting my way (selfishness)
- Immediate results/actions

Thoughts That Lead to Anger	Thoughts That Lead to Gentleness and Patience
<p>I can't believe she is running late again! I hate being late. I insist on being on time! I'm not going to stand for this anymore!!</p>	<p>I don't like to be late but love is patient. I will show love to her by being patient. How can I help her to be on time more for her good? Thank you, Lord, that she takes the time to look nice.</p>

<p>How dare she talk to me like that! I deserve more respect than that. I will not be treated this way!</p>	<p>I'm not going to let my pride flare up. Lord, you didn't sin when you were not respected. What is she trying to say? I'll deal with her sin later. I'm thankful to be made aware that I have done something wrong.</p>
<p>Why can't the kids just do right and leave me alone! I'm tired and want to watch this TV show. They're going to get it!</p>	<p>Dealing with the children is my job as a parent and it pleases you, Lord. I'm tired but just give me the grace to help the children to learn. Thank you for them, Lord, and for the opportunity to teach them.</p>

Things we may fear more than God:	Things we may want or love more than God:
<i>Man</i>	<i>Man's approval</i>
<i>Unwanted circumstances</i>	<i>Life of ease/comfort with no pain</i>
<i>Losing something or someone dear</i>	<i>Money, health, a person, things</i>
<i>Bodily harm</i>	<i>Safety, no pain</i>

Fearful Thoughts	Thankful, Hopeful, Trusting and Loving
Oh no! I just know this plane is going to crash. I can't do this. I don't want to die!	Thank you Lord, that I am in your hands. I am just as safe up here as I am on the ground. You are in control of all things. I can trust you to help me with whatever happens.
My job is ending soon and I don't have another one yet. What am I going to do? We're going to be in the poor house!	I thank you Lord, that you know our needs. I will do all I can to find another job, but I know you will help us through whatever happens. Please help me find another job. You are in control of all things. I will trust you and be content with what you provide.
If I confront her sin, she is going to get really angry, and I don't know what else she will do, but it will be really bad.	If I confront her she may be angry, but I will endure it in order to do what you want, Lord. I ask you to help her respond well, but I will trust you with whatever the outcome is.