

Message Series: Seven

Message Title: Binge

Key Scripture:

James 1:17

Other Scriptures: Luke 12:16–21, 1 Peter 5:7, Genesis 1:7–8

Theme

7: the less deadly sins. — it is easy to make distinctions when it comes to sin. Despite the obvious consequences of certain actions, ultimately, the Bible doesn't really categorise, but warns that doing whatever we feel like doing is not a free life.

Why? We are wanting to be the authentic church that God calls of us, so we can in contrast, witness to the world.

Our trouble is often because we excuse, or minimise, our own sin, the sin that is in us. Whatever we commit we must realise it is no less deadly. We are aiming to become more and more like Jesus, not legalistic nit picking, or under compulsion, or guilt, but who we are becoming in Christ!

Message Summary

Sin is not just doing bad things (whatever you would think that is), it's putting any good thing before God. Binge is all about the inability to delay gratification and is not food and drink alone; shopping, gyms, watching, work, gaming, etc can mask unhappy feelings and make us feel great – but they don't last. The grave mistake is living for ease and happiness, rather than seeing good things, as from God's goodness. You can't let your good thing become your God thing.

Whole Group Questions

- Think & Talk: Cast all your cares on Him. Where do you cast them?
- What matters in the life of a Christian?
- Discuss. Every time when you feel like doing the wrong thing, or, the right thing for the wrong reasons, but, you choose the God thing, with the right reasons, you grow.

How does applying this message affect our:

Fellowship – experiencing healthy relationships with other people

How can we encourage one another about our union in Christ?

Not: God, then all me. Not: All God, not Me. It is GOD IN ME!

Grace is not a transaction, it comes through union with Jesus. We are not merely passive, nor does God do some and we do the rest. God does it all, and we do it all, together (spiritually united for eternity).

Discipleship – growing in Christ both cognitively and experientially

Honesty moment. What fills your heart? What are you trying to get through? Relieve? Escape from? What created thing do we use as a consolation, a way to find relief from pressure, fear, stress, anxiety, reality? How then can we grow in God?

Ministry – Discovering and using our God-given gifts and abilities

If we can redirect our desire for intimacy, acceptance, and love into relationship with Jesus, remember all the benefits we do have, acknowledge every good gift has been created by God, and God has chosen to bring it into your life: How does this motivate you to serve God in this world?

Evangelism – Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with unbelievers

In a world that's ever changing, and moving through controversy and difficulty, how can we share of the constancy of God? How do we describe the goodness of God to others?

Worship – Surrendering our heart and life to Christ on an ongoing basis

You cannot let your good thing become your God thing.

James grounds his teaching with echoes to what he knows to be true about God himself, that God is good and generous.

What good things can you recognise in your life?

What do you know of God?

How do they shape your praise?