



Understanding Desire

INCARNATE, PART 3

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor
November 11 & 13, 2011

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.

2 Corinthians 4:7

LAST TIME... God has created us *Imago Dei*, complimentary, from CLAY, embodied beings...

BUT we are CRACKED VESSELS:

- ✓ We relate wrongly naturally
- ✓ We embody our crackedness...
distorted, cracked, broken
- ✓ "Garden Longing"

"But the language of the 'image of God' does mark humans off as distinct from anything else in the universe—which also means we stand in a unique relationship to the Creator. This relationship presents possibilities for human life that no other aspect of creation will ever know." — Matthew Anderson in *Earthen Vessels*

WHAT DO WE DO WITH "DESIRE"?

¹² *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.* ¹³ *Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.* ¹⁴ *Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.* ¹⁵ *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?*

1 Corinthians 6:12–15

"Lawful" v. "Profitable" — Not about keeping arbitrary rules but living into reality and wholeness.

"Lawful" v. "Mastered" — The principle of ordered desire.
(See Augustine)

- ✓ Almost all desires have an origin in "the Imago Dei."
- ✓ The body is not sinful, but sin lives in the body.

But I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

Romans 7:23

- ✓ Cracked vessels come up with cracked strategies.

"The Lord will raise us up..." — It's critical to take a Grand Narrative (eschatological) approach to desire.

- ✓ We must put desire under DESIRE —
we "fight fire with fire."
- ✓ There's nothing more life-giving than saying "no" in order to say a greater "YES"!
- ✓ You were made for God... all of you.

SPIRITUALITY OF JESUS IS... CROSS-SHAPED SPIRITUALITY!

A prayer

God, I exist because of You. This is a great gift and I pause to acknowledge it. I take all my faith and my hope and I declare to myself "only You can satisfy"! Give me the enabling grace to take all my desires and submit them to You. Consume me with the "Grand Desire" for which I was made. You created me for Yourself. The Lord Jesus Christ died to restore me to You. My heart will only find its rest in You.



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- ✓ We must put _____ under _____ — we "_____."
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