

Unbridled Affections

Commentary from Imitations of Christ

WHEN a man desires a thing too much, he at once becomes ill at ease. A proud and avaricious man never rests, whereas he who is poor and humble of heart lives in a world of peace. An un-mortified man is quickly tempted and overcome in small, trifling evils; his spirit is weak, in a measure carnal and inclined to sensual things; he can hardly abstain from earthly desires. Hence it makes him sad to forego them; he is quick to anger if reproved. Yet if he satisfies his desires, remorse of conscience overwhelms him because he followed his passions and they did not lead to the peace he sought.

True peace of heart, then, is found in resisting passions, not in satisfying them. There is no peace in the carnal man, in the man given to vain attractions, but there is peace in the fervent and spiritual man—author unknown.

Thoughts from Word for the Day

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ [who is] our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4 NKJV)

How interesting it is to see that anger accompanies discontentment. At whom is this anger really directed? It is God that man holds responsible for his lack of fulfillment. This is a dangerous place to be indeed.

Search your heart and extinguish any fires of unhealthy passion with the cooling balm of heavenly thoughts. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things [are] noble, whatever things [are] just, whatever things [are] pure, whatever things [are] lovely, whatever things [are] of good report, if [there is] any virtue and if [there is] anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” (Philippians 4:8 NKJV)

Prayer

Father, we are so easily distracted by the lust of the flesh. Remind us daily that the battle is fought with spiritual weapons. Open your Word and pour out the blessings of wisdom. Let us see the brilliance of your glory as we wait patiently for your return, amen.