

DAMAGED VOLITION

1. Genesis 3:6, the soul design and the concept of damaged volition.
 - A. Read Genesis 3:6-7 and then read 1 John 2:15-16.
 1. How the volition is affected by other parts of our soul.
 2. The distortion of the volition is 1 John 2:15-16 in the area of the lust of the flesh, pride of life, and lust of the eyes.
 3. Volition becomes damaged through old sin nature activity.
 - B. Genesis 3:6-7 is before the fall of man, before the old sin nature is in them. God created Adam's volition or freewill to be in charge of the Garden and the animal kingdom. The Garden and animals responded to his will. This will change after the Fall.
 1. The facets that were created in the soul are:
Self-consciousness, Mentality, Intelligence, Conscience, Emotion and Freewill.
 2. Each of these facets affect the volition in one way or another. Conscience existed before the fall of man but it was pure because there was no sin nature to cause damage. It only had divine norms and standards which enhanced Adam's freewill and made him stronger.
 3. There is a relationship to the volition from each individual part of the soul. For example, if mentality accepts some false doctrine as being true then volition is also involved. This harms volition and hinders it from making correct decisions in the future **thus damaging the volition.**

Illustration: If a car headlight is covered with mud, it is still shining forth but it is dimmed or hindered by the mud. The headlight is hindered from performing its full effective function of providing light.

In like manner, freewill is hindered by the accepting of false doctrine in the soul so it dims or damages freewill and this leads to more bad decisions. It cannot perform its full effective function as God intentions. Have you ever heard of someone saying, “I could not help myself!” That is **damaged volition** speaking.

4. If the mentality of the soul unites with volition and truth is accepted into the soul, then it is believed by faith, the result is positive and the soul benefits. This makes volition stronger towards God’s truth.
- C. Self-consciousness is the awareness of who you are, “I am, I exist.” When self-consciousness is under the control of the Old Sin Nature lust patterns then it is tied to selfishness, self-serving attitude of arrogance, and mental attitude sins. See 1 John 2:15-16.
1. Compare Genesis 3:6-7 with 1 John 2:15-16 to see how sin adversely affects the volition.

1 John 2:15 “Lust of the flesh” with Genesis 3:6 “good for food” Satan appealed to their human appetites and their senses were excited by the Satanic lie.

PRINCIPLE: When the appetite of the body comes under the old sin nature control it becomes a lust and that rules over the soul.

PRINCIPLE: The woman has a normal desire for good food but when mixed with Satan’s lie it became sin. She gained an Old Sin Nature at this point and her fall was complete.

Genesis 3:6 “Pleasant to the eyes” with 1 John 2:15 “lust of the eyes” Before the fall man desired what God had provided that was pleasant to the eyes but when Satan offered a different view of things then it looked more attractive.

Genesis 3:6-7 “to make one wise” with 1 John 2:15-16 “Pride of life” Both Adam and the woman saw the tree of human good and evil as a way to advance themselves apart from the will of God. This new wisdom was accepted and they gained a lust for Satanic wisdom.

2. The appetites in the emotions before the fall were normal, however, they are distorted through the old sin nature, and volition is affected.
 - a. Love before the fall was towards God and each other. Love after the fall is selfish and self serving.
 - b. Happiness before the Fall was enjoying fellowship with God and working in the Garden of Eden. After the Fall, Happiness is associated with having one's own way, seeking personal fulfillment, looking good, feeling wise, and enjoying the environment for what it can do for them.
 - c. Peace before the Fall was knowing God and enjoying perfect environment. After the Fall it is associated with a lack of threat and having the body's appetites satisfied.
3. When the woman accepted the temptation of Satan her emotions; self-awareness, and her intellect were stimulated by evil. She made a decision from her freewill to follow Satan.
4. Then in Genesis 3:6b we note that Adam was standing there all the time!
 - a. God held Adam responsible for the norm and standard in the conscience that the tree of human good and evil was not to be eaten from. (Genesis 2:17)
 - b. The woman influenced her husband. Adam appreciates her and loves her so he went along with her sin.

D. The first effects on volition due to soul influences:

1. Did not eliminate man's volitional responsibility.
2. Did not render man's volition sterile.
3. It did affect it this way: I John 2

“Pride of life”... who you are, self-consciousness.

“Lust of eyes”...wise, mentality and advance.

standards

“Lust of flesh”...appetites of the body, emotions, cravings will team up on volition to go against the norms and in the conscience.

First effect on volition:

- a. Change in the status of the volition. From the Fall onward man’s volition is a responder instead of an initiator due to the influence of sin and evil.

“Responder” means that it is limited to response to God and can do nothing of itself. Man does not seek after God on his own like Adam did but must be convicted by the Holy Spirit (John 16:8-10). Other scriptures show the same principle:

Romans 3:11, “There is none that seeks after God.”

John 6:44, “No man can come to Me unless the Father draws him, and I will raise him up....”

God must initiate towards man before man can respond.

- 1) Gospel information
- 2) Natural revelation of Scripture
- 3) Growth in grace.

Man is born into this world without any ability to pursue God for his will is a responder. God-consciousness divine law that God initiates.

is a

- b. Adam was to initiate the one norm and standard of “ don’t eat from the tree of human good and evil” to his wife and he violated it for a Satanic lie. Adam responded to his wife’s sin rather than initiating to her and telling her not to eat.
- c. Christ came into the garden, and Adam hid. Christ had to seek out Adam to challenge him and offer him restoration.

Second affect on volition:

- a. Romans 1:18, when a person refuses the call of God in gospel hearing, then there is a point of decline in the passage to the point of degeneracy, to blackout of the soul and the perversions take over.
- b. Self-consciousness and God-consciousness:
 - 1) Self-consciousness develops first, then God-consciousness comes along.
 - 2) If negative to God-consciousness then self-consciousness is affected.
 - 3) If positive to God-consciousness and responds to it, then positive volition.
 - 4) The response depends upon the lack of distortion in the self-consciousness and a child raised in the Christian home has the advantage of his self-consciousness remaining clear.
 - 5) When the child is God-consciousness there is no damage and he says YES to God and then receives the gospel.
 - 6) Each time a child asks their parents if there is a God and the parent says no and he accepts it, then there is a scar placed on that child's self-consciousness.
 - 7) If this happens often enough then the child thinks of nature in a scientific, mechanical sort of way.

Romans 1:21, Parents can damage the volition of their children by encouraging them to reject God consciousness.

1:22, "wise," the old sin nature and the lust of the eyes come in here, and the intellect is scarred, darkened up.

1:26, “passions,” distorted emotions, lust of flesh appetites of the body distorted, moral perversion.

1:28, depraved minds result

1:29-31, result of damaged volition is acceptance of evil.

more Each of these facets of the soul in Romans 1 add a little damage to the volition until it is hardened beyond repair.

1:32, Conscience, “knowing” they are aware they are wrong but they disobey anyway. The judgments of God are ignored. They perverted morally and enjoy it.

Summary: Four problems and areas of influence which produce distortion.

1. Who am I—self-consciousness damage, reject God-consciousness and self-consciousness.
2. What I know—mental damage, reject divine viewpoint, accept human viewpoint, intellectualism.
3. What I want—emotion damage, reject laws of nature, right man/right woman.
4. What I will ignore—when you can know that something is true and willingly ignore it, then you have volitional damage, conscience damage. Rejection of norms and standards of doctrine in your own conscience.
5. Pride of life over self-consciousness:
Lust of eyes over intelligence, man’s quest for wisdom.
Lust of flesh over emotions.
False norms and standards of legalism over conscience, (or lawlessness).

Bible

2. Stages of volitional decline:

A. Acts 17:15 ff, Four groups of people in idolatry.

1. Self-consciousness—Pride of life group, Stoics, they believed in sternness, self-sufficiency, keeping their race pure, emphasized pure reason and intellect—personal image syndrome. God exists in the minds of men. They make decisions on the basis of what they think of themselves. Their whole philosophy of life is governed by their personal image. They never ask for help but would rather bear their pain.
2. Emotions—Epicureans, pleasure through experience was their motto. They loved the greatest good for the greatest amount of people. They were body oriented, playboys, they emphasized the lust of the flesh. Their stimulus in life was experiences.
 - a. They are very conscious of what they enjoyed.
 - b. If it looked like a pleasant experience then they would do it, no matter what it was.
3. Verse 21, The Greeks sought after wisdom, what they KNOW, mentality. The Athenians were Greeks and they sought after wisdom and intellectual stimuli.

Verse 21, “strangers,” Jews in town, also intellectually oriented but more sign oriented. They considered themselves the conscience of the world. Romans 2, “We have the Mosaic Law.”

Therefore, all of the four groups teamed up in the city and the result: The whole city was given over to idolatry. Jews have the taboo and traditional syndrome—“we have always done it this way”.

B. Volition becomes dependent on certain sinful specific stimuli for motivation and function.

1. The volition of the Epicurean, the emotional group, was dependent upon the stimuli sent to it by personal experience of emotions. Emotions called the shots.
 - a. If they had sensation of pleasure they would do it.

- b. As the body becomes dependent upon alcohol the volition becomes a stimuli to function.
- c. Volition is to be dependent upon doctrine.
- d. If someone asks you to make a decision what is the soul facet that you go to back to, to make that decision? Emotion asks, "Will it feel good?"
- e. Volition can become hooked on experiences, emotions, and feelings.

NOTE: There is a difference to being influenced by each of the soul facets and being dependent upon them for stimuli.

The body can enjoy and be influenced by coffee, tea, nicotine, alcohol, and enjoy them, but if you become dependent upon any of them for happiness or fulfillment then you will suffer for it.

- f. If you have to have stimuli in the volition to get it going then there is a dependency.

2. The volition of the Athenians, the intellect group, was dependent upon intellectual stimuli sent to it by the mentality.

Some people in church really like the exegesis of the Greek and Hebrew but don't like the pastor's applications and shepherding.

3. Self-consciousness of group's volition, personal image syndrome group and pride of life group, What turns them on?

- a. They get you to do something by appealing to your well-being. Ever have a pastor put his hand on your shoulder and tell how good it would be for you to do this or that, or reason you that you would benefit by doing this or that in his

you
with
program.

- b. These are recruiters for organizations, churches, clubs, etc. and

they appeal to your well-being, self-interests.

- c. All they have to do is appeal to your arrogance and pride and they can get you to do anything they want. Example: “You are a responsible person, you are important in the community, you have position (money we need) and people know you”,

etc.

“If you say no to this then you would be letting down your Image as a Christian leader”.

- d. Healthy volition would not respond to this flattery for you realize they are trying to manipulate you.

POINT: Any decision is influenced by all of the facets of the soul working together in balance, but never from only one particular stimuli.

- 4. Taboo and traditional syndrome—will hold you according to the Law.
 - a. They love the limitations of a ministry. They have to have a list of do’s and don’ts before they feel comfortable.
 - b. They are impressed with men and their viewpoints and they follow tradition.
 - c. Volition is hooked on ritual, legalism.
 - d. They consider themselves to be the conscience of the church and they try to keep everyone walking the chalk line. They are nosy, sticking their nose into other people’s business.

C. Romans 7:18, volition becomes unable to follow through on a decision even after the decision has been made. This person makes a good decision but does not carry it out.

- 1. They promise many things for you and they cannot keep them. Paul is able to desire and make a decision, but he cannot follow through on what he has decided.

2. Good intentions don't count if there isn't any follow through.
 - a. Man says he will be home early and he never is.
 - b. New Year's resolutions and they are never followed.
3. The volition is damaged sufficiently so that you cannot follow through on what you do finally desire.

2 Corinthians 8:11, note the desire and then follow through principle. EPITELEO, to complete, follow through, perform. Hebrews 8:5; 9:6; 1 Peter 5:9.

What happens is that you make a decision, but need someone to come along and motivate you to carry through with that decision
when you need the Word to help you.

D. 1 Timothy 3:6, qualification of pastor—"pride"

1. 1 Timothy 6:9, apostate types, volition which results in misdirected decisions. Lust of flesh to get rich.
2. Volition makes misdirected decisions due to novice status, pride of life to lust of flesh syndrome.
3. Novice—glorified idea of himself, he is "God's gift to the church," conscious of maintaining the clerical image, proud.

3. The Corinthian church represents the four groups, 1 Corinthians 1.

A. Self-consciousness—Stoics in the church pride of life group.
Apollos group, 1:12, 17-29, 2:1f

B. Emotions—Epicureans, lust of flesh, pleasure through experience
Christ group, 1:12, 20-29; 2:14

C. Conscience—Jewish legalism, Peter group, 1:12-16, Jews vs. 30-31

D. Mentality—Intellectual advance group, Greeks, lust of eyes
Paul group, 1:12.

4. Teams to show volitional damage in text of Scripture.
 - A. Galatians 5:4, legalism, conscience.
 - B. Philippians 3:18, enemy of cross.
 - C. Jeremiah 9:25-26, uncircumcision of heart.
 - D. Hebrews 12:15, failing grace of God.
 - E. 2 Peter 2:7-8, tortured soul.
 - F. 2 Peter 2:14, unstable soul.
 - G. Revelation 2:4, having left first love.
 - H. Revelation 2:5, fallen.
 - I. Revelation 3:15, lukewarm.
 - J. Psalm 7:14, life of deceit.
 - K. Isaiah 28:13-15, false alliances, negative volition towards +J, scoffers, alcoholism.

5. Volition damage and reversion:
 - A. Lasciviousness/phallic reversion—1 Corinthians 12:21; Ephesians 4:19; 5:5; Colossians 3:5; Revelation 2:14 20:23.
 - B. Legalistic reversion—Colossians 2:16-18, Hebrews 5:11, 6:16.
 - C. Monetary reversion—Ecclesiastes 5:10-16; James 4:14-15, 5:1-6; Revelation 3:14-20.
 - D. Alcoholic reversion—Isaiah 28:1-9; Galatians 5:20.

- E. Anti-establishment, Romans 1:18-32; Hosea 4:1-7; mental attitude reversion,
 - F. Mind snaps—psychosis, neurosis, 2 Peter 2:15-19.
6. Believer to develop positive volition through Bible doctrine.
- A. Philippians 3:10a, deeper personal life with Christ.
3:10b, learn to tap divine power in prayer.
3:10c, learn what it means to identify with Christ in undeserved suffering.
 - B. 1 Corinthians 10:31, serving God so that the way you live our life glorifies God and pleases Him.
 - C. 2 Timothy 4:7, completing every responsibility God has given to us for the course of our lives.
 - D. Matthew 28:19-20, witnessing and breaking down barriers,
2 Corinthians 5:18-21.
 - E. Ephesians 4:13, the believer is like Christ in his thinking.

Diagram I can't draw

Because all this page was handwritten and numbered, I started the Doctrine of Volition on the next page with point 1 again.

Doctrine of Volition:

1. Definition: Volition is the act or ability to make decisions, choices, and is linked to the mentality, self-consciousness, emotion, and conscience.
 - A. Faith is that capacity to believe that which is taught; volition is the capacity to choose or reject that which is understood or taught.
 - B. Volition must follow God's order of things for happiness. If God says don't commit adultery then it is more happiness for you in the long run if you don't.
 - C. Volition must have information in order to function.
 - D. Volition is the first divine institution in the human race and volition has to be directed through information.
 1. Volition is ruler of marriage, family, government.

Romans 1:16, man has volitional freewill because God gave it to all mankind. God activates volition to be God-conscious.

John 7:17, Christ's volition is to obey the Father. The epitome of volition is to glorify the Son, please the Father.

Romans 7:18; John 3:36.
 - E. Each third class condition of IF is an expression of freewill.
 - F. Man's freewill can be influenced by outside factors from others, old sin nature, world, devil.
 1. You can choose to agree with the plan of God **which** is positive volition **and disagree is** negative volition. **[or disagree which is?]**
 - G. When the will of God is not personally accomplished in the believer's life it indicates negative volition on the part of man to reject His plan. 1 Timothy 2:4, will all men to be saved and to know truth. **[He wills?]**

H. Prayer is a manufacturer of positive volition, proclaiming doctrine to the Lord; your application insures positive volition, Jude 1:20.

1. Repent is used for the Jews—change attitude towards Christ concerning what it says about Him in the Mosaic Law.
2. Gentiles have to believe for they did not have the Law.

I. Christ chose to come and die on the cross, Isaiah 53:11-12, from His own freewill, Hebrews 10:7-10.

J. The individual is to stay positive to **doctrine the way of life** of grace will be revealed to him, Colossians 2:6-7. [**doctrine, and the way of life of grace?**]

1. Once on truth the Word of God become a magnet attracting the individual. [**Once in truth the Word of God becomes?**]
2. Once freewill is used to disagree with God, then **the** individual goes negative, sin cycles start and lust takes over the body and there is reaction to life, doctrine, frantic search for happiness.

2. Colossians 2:6, object of volition is the issue that is important: Christ, doctrine.

A. Lock yourself into positive volition on earth as close as possible through living doctrine daily, confirmed in positive volition.

B. Your way of life keeps you positive.