



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

7 Deadly Characteristics to Your Godly Peace, Joy and Contentment

September 5, 2021 Lesson 8

As we continue our series today with the **"7 Deadly Characteristics to Your Godly Peace, Joy and Contentment"** we will be focusing on Not recognizing and using your God given Spiritual Gifts. You will remember from last week, we covered Wrongly placed motives for Competitiveness.

Each of these characteristics can and will totally destroy your Christian Spirit and God's ability to work through you for a Victorious, Peaceful and Content Christian Life:

1. Perfectionism
2. Comparisons
3. Pride
4. Selfishness (Your relationship with God and what serves as its basis)
5. Competitiveness With Wrongly Placed Motives
6. **Not Recognizing and Using Your God Given Spiritual Gifts**
7. Control

As we step through each of these deadly characteristics to our Spiritual conditions, we need to remind ourselves that this whole series is about each of us **Freeing our Heart, Mind, Body and Soul!**

A. **Introduction to Not Recognizing and Using Your Spiritual Gifts**

You are Exactly As God Wants; Your uniqueness – 1 Peter 4:10-11

10 Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with strength God provides...

Every Child of God Has Talents, Skills and Gifts - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

B. **Starter Thoughts and Context of Lesson**

Who Am I in Christ and what power or gifts do I really have anyway? While the God's Word directly tells us, why do we seem wonder if God really has a purpose and direction for our life? If we are so perfectly made for His purpose, then why do I feel so insecure in who I am and what I can do? It always seems that I have come up on the short end of the gifts and if I really have one it seems more of a hindrance than

help? Do these feelings of inferiority contribute to you reaching your full potential? Surely God did not make a mistake or forget something in my personality, make-up or skills?

The Bible says that we are chosen by God and given a purpose. According to 1 Peter 2:9 it says, "*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness in to his wonderful light*". This is God's purpose for us. Often times we forget who we are and what God has done for us. Don't compare yourself to others and don't allow feelings of insecurity to rob you of your identity in Christ. It is important that we see ourselves the way God sees us and then live in obedience to Him. God knows who we really are. He loves us and created us.

There are no mistakes here, let's start living and acting like that is the truth!

C. Additional Scriptures for Lesson:

Psalm 139:13-16

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

John 1:12-13

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Galatians 4:6-7

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Psalm 138:8

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever-do not abandon the works of your hands.

**D. Maximize the Gifts God Gave You Instead of Always Wanting More
Biblical Self Esteem – Accepting Who You Are**

Being a captive of comparisons can lead to feelings of inferiority, pain and often being unaware of your God given talents and capabilities. Deep discontent can be generated through comparisons. It could be about education, skills, looks, talents, material possessions, money; you name it!

Comparing yourself to others will cause you to lose sight of your giftedness and God-given talents. Losing sight of your talents will lead to ineffective or non-existent ministry in God's plan and kingdom. ***Only when we begin to confront inappropriate comparisons and treat them as sin, will you begin to take back control of your life through the help of the Holy Spirit. This will create a newfound freedom and self-awareness of serving in God's plan***

Through God's love and mercy we are alive and should demonstrate thankfulness, not grumbling, questioning and discontent around who God made us to be. You were created exactly as God planned and wanted; What is there to be sorry about, unhappy or feeling inferior about. Our saved spiritual position is totally adequate for God with the spiritual gifts and skills he has provided you. There is no need to worry or fret over it one second!

E. Scriptural Insight:

Release and Freedom Come From Assurance and Trust

The Purpose Driven Life, by Rick Warren

- 1) **You are not an accident, pg 22-23**
 - God created you and every detail was planned
 - Nothing is arbitrary, it's all for a purpose

- 2) **What makes God Smile? pg 69-76**
 - The smile of God is your goal and purpose in Life
 - Love and Trust Him completely
 - Obey Him wholeheartedly
 - Praise and Thank Him Continually
 - Use your abilities freely and liberally

- 3) **Understanding Your Assignment, pg 227-228**
 - You were placed here for a special assignment

- 4) **Understanding Your Shape, pg 241-247**
 - You are unique and only you can make the contribution God has planned, no one else
 - Employing your experiences in life (Family, Educational, Vocational, Spiritual. Ministry, Pain)
 - Painful experiences are the ones God uses the most!

- 5) **Accept and Enjoy Your Shape, pg 252**
 - Examine your experiences and extract lessons
 - Accept God's lot for you
 - Do not allow comparisons to take over

F. Questions for Small Group Discussion:

- 1) Did God equip you with all we need?
- 2) With respect to Ephesians and Psalms:

- a. What does being “God’s Handiwork” mean to you?
 - b. What does it say to God when we gripe or show discontent about ourselves?
 - c. Discuss how God creating us exactly as he planned from the beginning of time should help us feel and act about ourselves?
- 3) Discuss how we are most effective when we use our spiritual gifts and abilities in our “heart’s desire”?
 - 4) If we are satisfied with ourselves, then why do we usually look toward others and wish we had something else?
 - 5) Describe how God uses life’s experiences to refine and hone our character? Does this character development occur without pain and stress?
 - 6) God wants us to understand and know our Self Identity and it is not one of failure or weakness; We are new creatures with a designed workmanship, plan, purpose and talents; Why do we ever wonder?