
The Problem of Immediacy

- Technology has not only increased the power of our output, but the speed of our output.
 - Immediacy has been indoctrinated within our increasingly efficient technological innovations.
 - If immediacy is how we _____, our spiritual depth will _____.

What is Immediacy?

- The technological convenience of immediacy – or to have what we want instantly by means of technology – can create within us competing values, desires and priorities.
 - **Immediacy:** the idea, quality, or state of being that _____ what is instant.
 - If we demand the immediate from the Christian life, all you will be left with is shallow Christianity

The Problem of Immediacy

- Immediacy as a means of learning, growing and developing is the exception to the rule not the governing principle
 - Enjoying the conveniences of the immediate is not a problem, but a life governed by the immediate *is a problem*.
 - Word Study: _____
 - Romans 2:1-5; Ps. 27:13-14 –
 - _____
 - Ephesians 3:1-4
 - _____
 - James 5:10-12
 - _____

Three Effects of "Patience"

- First, patience is used to describe our relationship with the _____.
 - His patience toward us:
 - Romans 2:1-5; 2 Peter 3:8-9, 15
 - Our patience in Him:
 - God is patient with us despite our unrighteousness and we are patient with God because of our unrighteousness.
 - Ps. 27:13-14

- Second, patience describes our relationship with _____.
 - Matt. 7:1-5
- Third, patience describes our relationship with _____.
 - We are to be those who are capable of enduring long seasons of pain, thorns that are seemingly immovable, circumstances that are seemingly unchangeable, and scenarios that just seem unwinnable.
 - We should not seek to escape suffering as if it is something bad, but that we would understand it as a refining fire.

Three Defects of Immediacy

- First, when immediacy infects our relationship with God...
 - ...it has a negative impact in how we understand God's _____ with us
 - When the amount of energy required to make a social connection, order some food, stock up on paper towels, and even attend church requires little or no effort, we need to be analytical about how that effects our theology.
 - ... it has a negative impact on our _____.
 - _____ take _____.
 - Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study
- Second, when immediacy infects our relationship with each other...
 - ... it wants to reduce our social interactions for the sake of _____ and _____.
 - Immediacy wants to undo the demand to be patient with one another.
- Third, when immediacy infects how we suffer...
 - ...it can never see suffering as _____ – only that which we should avoid at all costs.
 - The wisdom that comes from times of suffering, unanswered prayer, and waiting can often be more substantial than that which comes from our times of flourishing

How We Respond

- We must live “an _____ life”
 - First, we must reclaim our time with _____.
 - The point is to sacrifice immediate gratification for the sake of prolonged devotion.
 - Second, we must reclaim our _____.
 - Third, we must increase reclaim our ability to _____.
 - In short, we reclaim our ability to “longsuffer” by coming before the Lord with a willingness to pray “not my will but yours be done.”