

Despair Incorporated

Mediocrity

- It takes a lot less time and most people won't know the difference until it's too late**

Apathy

- If we don't take care of the customer maybe they will stop bugging us**

Procrastination

- Hard work pays off after time but laziness pays off right now**

The Passion Principle

**23 And whatever you do, do it heartily,
as to the Lord and not to men,
24 Knowing that from the Lord you will
receive the reward of the inheritance;
for you serve the Lord Christ. *Col.3***



I. The Scope of Our Passion

A. “Whatever You Do” *Ecc.9:10*

- We sometimes fail to see this principle because our job is demeaning / *Cor.4:9-13*

8 We are hard pressed on every side, yet **not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but **not destroyed** - *2 Cor.4***

- Though the apostles were severely tested they boldly spoke out of faith *2 Cor.4:7-13*
- Passion radiates from faith! *Acts 4:12-13*

A. “Whatever You Do”

B. Love For God Drives Passion

- Religious passion without loving God is just going through the motions / *Cor.13:1-3*

30 “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” *Mk.12*

- Too many religious people live their lives as “practical atheist”



II. The Strength of Our Passion

A. “Do It Heartily”

- Heartily comes from the word “ensuke” meaning “out of your soul” *1 Sam.17:42-50*

45 Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” *1 Sam.17*

- When people understand God’s mercy they become passionate *Mk.5:18-20*

A. “Do It Heartily”

B. Why Do Many Not Live Heartily?

- We’re too proper, polite, politically correct, and passive *Psa.139:23-24*

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting. *Psa.139*

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!” *Psa.103*

A romantic scene featuring a couple in silhouette, embracing and kissing. They are positioned on the left side of the frame. The background is a soft, warm sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun low on the horizon, creating a golden glow. The sky transitions from a deep purple at the top to a lighter orange near the horizon. The overall mood is intimate and passionate.

III. The Secret of Our Passion

A. “As To The Lord And Not To Men”

- Feeling alone and confused robs people of enthusiastic discipleship *Matt.26:56*
 - The Elijah syndrome, “I alone am left; and they seek to take my life” / *Kgs.19:10, 14*
 - God told Elijah to go to work because He had seven thousand faithful / *Kgs.19:15-18*
 - Faithful saints know regardless of their location or position God sees *Eph.6:5-8*

A. “As To The Lord And Not To Men”

B. Why Be Conscious of God Seeing?

- Saints receive the Reward of the inheritance from The Lord *Col.3:24*

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that **He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who **diligently** seek Him. *Heb.11***

- To have only a “little faith” is not pleasing to God *Mk.4:35-41*



IV. The Source of Our Passion

A. What Is The Source of Our Passion?

- **Enthusiasm** - means “God in you”
 - Passion is not developed but discovered because it is God’s gift *Rom.12:4-15*

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. **Abhor** what is evil. **Cling** to what is good.

10 **Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love**, in honor giving preference to one another *Rom.12*

- Can you enthusiastically use God’s gift?

A. What Is The Source of Our Passion?

B. How Can We Start Living Passionately?

- **Start with small steps in areas you know to work and go forward *Matt.10:42***
 - **We must begin with a Godly sorrow not the phony sorrow of the world *2 Cor.7:10***
 - **Peter's emotional sermon causes many to be "cut to the heart" *Acts 2:36-38***
 - **Passionately grow up in Jesus! *Acts 2:42***

Three Temperatures of Hearts

The Cold Heart

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” *Matt.24:12*

The Hot Heart

“And they said to one another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’” *Lk.24:32*

The Indifferent Heart

“So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.” *Rev.3:16*