

Breaking Free from a Stubborn Habit (Pt. 1)

(June 30, 2019)

- When God defines how believers are to live, He adds this caveat:
 - ✓ Proverbs 14:12
 - ✓ Matthew 7:13-14 (The Message)
 - ✓ God did not invent “church” simply to make life easier for us.
 - ➔ Including others in our life’s walk makes it harder for us to do as we please.

- We’re called to put off our ways and to put on God’s ways (Ephesians 4:22-24).
 - ✓ Not every person needs deliverance, inner healing or the pulling-down of a stronghold.
 - ✓ Some need to learn biblical strategies in breaking patterns or habits which have become ingrained in our lives.
 - ✓ The authority of sonship shifts the balance of power decidedly in our favor.
 - ➔ John 1:12 (“right” = authority)
 - ➔ Romans 6:14a
 - ✓ Is following God’s path supposed to be easy or right?
 - ➔ Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)
 - ➔ “Narrow” = uncomfortably confining
 - ➔ Though God’s heart is open and compassionate toward His people, His ways are often not convenient.

Ground Rules for dislodging a long-term pattern:

1. We must believe that God is good, and He wants us to have a good life (James 1:13-14, 16-17).
 - ✓ God is not a child abuser.
 - ✓ The first temptation to man in the Garden of Eden was to doubt God’s goodness (Genesis 3:4-5, The Message).
 - ✓ If we fall into unbelief that God is good and desires blessing for our life, we become stuck in long-term habits.