

Diagrams Showing Distractions

Each area of weakness constitutes a catalyst for chain sinning. The reversionistic spiral begins with the mental-attitude sins of jealousy and bitterness.

These emotional sins always have an object. Unchecked these sins lead to other sins and develop into the three arrogant skills. They are mental attitude sins but they soon develop into sins of the tongue. Unchecked, these sins progress to the level of overt sins motivated by revenge tactics.

These are serious levels of decline whereby the jealousy and bitterness must be expressed through some system of self-justified retribution. Throughout the process, the crippled believer seeks to acquire happiness at the expense of someone else's unhappiness.

This very volatile process is depicted in the overhead transparencies developed by Colonel Thieme that you now see on the board:

Thieme, R. B. Jr. Visual aids from Spiritual Dynamics. 30 Nov., 1995, and 11 Oct., 1994. Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries.

First, we see the “Wheel-tracks of the Loser Believer”:

- a. If jealousy and bitterness occur and there is no rebound then implacability and anger result.
- b. If implacability and anger go unchecked by rebound then hatred and vindictiveness result.
- c. All these emotional sins must be dealt with from one's norms and standards and in order to harbor them they must be justified.
- d. This leads to the development of the three arrogant skills. Self-justification for mental-attitude sins followed by self-deception that such sins are acceptable under current circumstances. This enables the reversionist to move forward under self-absorption which is an over-emphasis on self.
- e. Therefore, without any compunction, qualm, or guilt, the reversionist moves into sins of the tongue: malice, revenge, vituperation, vilification.
- f. If these are not checked by rebound or some establishment-oriented form of outside intervention, the person will move into overt sins involving violence and abuse.
- g. The violence and abuse can take one of two courses:
 1. Outwardly toward others resulting in criminal activity such assault and battery, rape, or murder; or,
 2. Inwardly toward self-resulting in self-flagellation, substance abuse, or suicide.

Second, we see the “Gears and Cogs of Reversionism,” this same group of sins and how they interlock under the three arrogant skills.

- a. Jealousy and bitterness are directed toward others under self-justification.
- b. Implacability and anger are permitted under self-deception.
- c. Hatred and vindictiveness are sustained under self-absorption.
- d. The cogs of the large wheel include verbal and overt sins such as malice, revenge, vituperation, and vilification in the former, and violence and abuse in the latter.

These sins and their relationships are brought out in several passages of Scripture. We'll take a look at one in a bit of detail.

2 Timothy 3:2 - Believers will be lovers of self [**the three arrogant skills**], lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers [**verbal sins**], disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2 Timothy 3:3 - unloving [**no virtue love**], implacable, malicious gossips [**vituperation and vilification**], without self-control [**no ability to control one's own soul**], brutal [**violence and abuse**], not lovers of intrinsic good,

2 Timothy 3:4 - treacherous [**faithless and disloyal**], thoughtless [**implies hypersensitivity about self but disregard for the feelings of others**], pumped up with arrogance, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God;

2 Timothy 3:5 - who adhere to a superficial form of the spiritual life [**legalism**], although they have denied its power [**the three spiritual skills**]. Consequently, avoid such persons as these [**believers as well as unbelievers**].

2 Timothy 3:6 - For among them [**reversionists**] are those who creep into homes and seduce silly women overwhelmed by their sins, led by various lust patterns,

2 Timothy 3:7 - always learning [**curriculum of the Cosmic Academy**] but they are never able to come to an epignosis understanding of the truth [**curriculum of the Grace Academy**].