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“SO THE CHILD GREW AND BECAME  
STRONG IN SPIRIT” LUKE 1:80

# Healing the Disease of Entitlement

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PART 2

# Recap

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Entitlement is the belief that I am owed unearned privileges and am exempt from responsibility

Challenges in dealing with an entitled individual

- Alienation
- Anger
- Helplessness

Causes

- Relational
- Praise and rewarding problems
- Correction and consequence problems

# Causes of Entitlement

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## 1. Relational patterns

- One must learn that the feelings and concerns of others are just as important as one's own.

## 2. Praise and Reward Problems

### a) Praising what takes no effort

- Ex: A young boy for being smart

**"HOW YOU  
MAKE OTHERS  
FEEL ABOUT  
THEMSELVES,  
SAYS A LOT  
ABOUT YOU."**

# Causes of Entitlement

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## 2. Praise and Reward Problems

### b) Praising what is required

- “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’ ”  
(Lk. 17:10)

### c) Non-specific praise

- “*You are amazing!*”

### d) Praising what takes an ability and making it an identity



# Causes of Entitlement

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## 2. Praise and Reward Problems

e) Praising what is not reality

f) The lack of a warm, loving environment

- When a person has many relationships that are cold, detached, or self-absorbed, it often creates a defense grandiose identity.



# Causes of Entitlement

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## 3. Correction and Consequence Problems

- Correction and consequences are necessary for maturation
- Consider the time of the Judges
- “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Jud. 17:6)
- [The entitled person] *“I have the right to do whatever I want because there is no reality that conflicts with my belief.”*

# Treatment:

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## The Difficult Way

- Doing what is best, rather than what is comfortable to achieve a worthwhile outcome.
- “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”  
(Matt. 7:13-14)



# Principles for Healing

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## 1. Humility and Dependence

- “...for in Him we live and move and have our being...” (Acts 17:28)
- This is His universe and He invited us into it.
- Humility – accepting the reality of who God is and who you are.
- Dependence – you look to Him for your sustenance



# Principles for Healing

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## 2. Connectedness

- We are designed to live connected with each other
- We desire to be fully known and fully loved
- “But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.” (Eccl. 4:10)
- We need each other



# Principles for Healing

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## 2. Connectedness

- a. Objectification
- b. Unhealthy self-sufficiency

“O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.” (2 Cor. 6:11-13)

# Principles for Healing

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## 3. Ownership

- We must take responsibility for our own choices
- God created us with a great deal of freedom
- “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Jos. 24:15)

you are **FREE**  
TO CHOOSE,  
BUT YOU ARE NOT  
**FREE** from the  
CONSEQUENCE  
OF YOUR **CHOICE**

# Principles for Healing

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## 4. Accepting your weakness

- Your flaws cannot be forgiven or healed until you admit them.
- Entitlement does not prompt you to accept the negatives in your life.

## 5. Finding your role

- Life is complete only when you give back who you are to the world.
- **“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Pet. 4:10)**



# Summary

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The sin of entitlement is a disease that is growing rampant in our society and culture and its effects are harmful – socially, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Entitlement - belief that I am owed unearned privileges and am exempt from responsibility

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- Anger
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Causes

- Relational
- Praise and rewarding problems
- Correction and consequences problems