

A Glutton

Matthew 11:16-19

PROPOSITION: Gluttony is indicative of a wrong attitude and a wrong manner of life that need to be corrected.

INTRODUCTION:

1. "Gluttony" is from the Latin word *gluttire* meaning, "to gulp down or swallow." It refers to over-consumption of food, drink, intoxicants or items of wealth to the point of waste.
2. In the Bible we find words that refer to far more than just eating too much at a meal (cf. Prov. 23:20, 21; Jer. 15:19).
3. In the New Testament, the word refers to "an eater with emphasis" (Tit. 1:12).

DISCUSSION:

I. Was Jesus a glutton?

- A. He was so accused (Matt. 11:16-19).
- B. The word translated "glutton" refers to one given to loose and excessive living.
- C. Jesus was teaching people who could not be pleased with Him. The people with whom He and John worked would not cooperate with either of these messengers from God.
- D. While John was criticized for his ascetic behavior, Jesus was criticized for participating in the normal activities of life.
- E. Jesus was not a glutton. He simply sought to fulfill His role in God's plan to call men to repent.
- F. His defense: "Wisdom is justified by her deeds" (cf. Matt. 11:19; Prov. 8, 9; Luke 7:35).

II. Are you a glutton?

- A. Key terms are: too much, too soon, too eagerly, and too quickly.
- B. When we use food and drink in a way that injures our health or impairs our mind, we are guilty.
 1. Cf. Ecclesiastes 10:17.
 2. Other eating disorders are also commonly associated with gluttony, e.g. bulimia nervosa.
- C. Lust and greed are also related to gluttony (cf. James 4:1, 2).
 1. Too much of even a good thing can be bad.
 2. In Numbers 11, the Israelites in the wilderness, inclined to be excessive, let lust and greed rule them (vv. 1, 32, 33; cf. Psa. 78:27-31).
- D. We must get our appetites under control before they become addictions.
- E. A part of the "fruit of the Spirit" is self-control (Gal. 5:22, 23).

CONCLUSION:

1. "Examine yourselves..." (2 Cor. 13:5).
2. Are you guilty of loose morals, of laziness, of idleness, and the like? Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:58.
3. Are you guilty of a sense of entitlement when it comes to spiritual blessings (cf. Col. 3:15, 17)?