

CMS-059 and 060  
The Strategies of the  
Happiness Motivators:  
#1 Approbation

"The Christian has three opponents that he must overcome in order to inherit the promises of God. These three opponents are the world, the flesh nature and the devil.

A Christian overcomes the world at the point that he believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

All Christians have overcome the world in their belief in Jesus Christ.

However, a Christian must also overcome the flesh nature and the devil in order to inherit the promises of God to rule and reign with Jesus Christ in His kingdom.

The Christian must put on the whole armor of God as explained in Ephesians 6:11-17 in order to overcome the devil.

The final opponent in the Christian life is the Christian's own flesh nature.

... A Christian overcomes the lusts of his flesh nature by walking or being controlled by his spirit nature, which is in harmony with the Holy Spirit." - Lyn Mize

*Gal 5:17 NIV -- For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.*

This verse clearly teaches us that we have, as believers, two natures; one that is called the “Sinful Nature”, and another that is named “the Spirit”. It is called “The Spirit”, because it is in our new nature, our “Spiritual Nature,” that the Holy Spirit resides and controls:

*“For if you walk by means of the Spirit, you will not fulfill the desires of the sinful nature.” (Gal 5:16)*

This verse clearly outlines an either/or situation; it does not say, “*you might not fulfill the desires,*” it emphatically states that you will “*not.*”

When a Christian is born-again, or Spiritually Regenerated ("Re-Gened") by the Holy Spirit, he receives a new spirit nature - "born of God" that is 100% controlled by the Holy Spirit.

This new nature will never cause a Christian to sin, as it always desires that which is pure and holy.

In contrast the old Flesh/Body Nature desires those things that are sinful.

In new Christians the sinful nature is immediately removed from the Throne of Control at the moment of Faith in Christ.

Unfortunately, the "Spiritual Nature" is a Baby, and knows nothing of its New Life, so, he almost immediately commits some "sin" and restores the "Old Nature," the "Fleshly Nature", the "Adamic Nature" back into the Throne of Control.

Even more unfortunate, because of ignorance of the mechanics of the Spiritual Life -- the Hosea 4:6 Principle -- the old sinful nature remains in control throughout the remainder of their lives for many Christians.

*Hosea 4:6 - My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me: seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.*

If the New Christian is really unlucky, some Church or 'Christian Organization' will clamp onto him and attempt to get him to "clean up your life for Jesus."

He now makes a list, or uses the list they conveniently have prepared for him, to begin to "repent of his sins."

Invariably, this list is composed of the Ten Commandments, and some other commandments or "sins" that they think God should have placed in the original list.

"Don't do these things, and you will be a good Christian," they say, or imply.

Because of this seemingly positive approach, numerous Christians think they are walking in accordance with the spirit when they are actually walking in accordance with the old fleshly nature:

*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.*  
(Gal 5:18 NIV)

New Christians, having no knowledge of their new Spiritual Life, are easy prey for these “old Christians”, who also have no knowledge of their Spiritual Life. It is a case of the “blind leading the blind,” as the “older”—not more mature—Christian leads the new convert down the path of “Religion.”

Religion is one of six happiness motivators in our “Old Fleshly Adamic Human Nature” and is the source of all false religious beliefs and philosophies of Homo sapiens.

It is sometimes referred to, by Christians, as that “God shaped hole in everyone's heart.”

It is evident from the very first moments of Adam and Eve's new life of their fallen nature, what I sometimes refer to as, "The First Baptist Church of Fig Leaves." Their immediate response to the recognition of their separation from God was to attempt some religious solution by making a fig leaf covering.

All of mankind continues that pattern, giving us a workable definition of Religion:

Man's attempt to placate God, or to excuse himself from it.

It is Religion that motivates most of man's really horrendous actions towards others.

When non-Christians recognize this, they ignorantly blame the Christian faith for the atrocities of "Religious Christians," not understanding that it is the Religious Nature of Man to blame, not the Faith or doctrine of the Bible.

It is, in fact, exactly as the Scriptures teach:

*When we were in the flesh, our sinful desires worked through the Law (Religion) in the sphere of our body to bear fruit for death. Romans 7:5*

With Paul's conclusion:

*"I know that in me" (that is my flesh) "dwelleth no good thing." (Ver. 18)*

So, the Religious Christian, ignorant of the Resources of his New Spiritual Nature, like the Religious Unbeliever (not an oxymoron), pursues their own Righteousness through an unapproved system of legalism ("Touch not, taste not.") or philosophy ("My God wouldn't let...").

Even the Jews, "entrusted with the oracles (Word) of God", turned His revelations into a "Religious System"...

*Rom 2:17 But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God 18 and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; 19 and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. 24 For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”*

*Romans 3:9 What then? Are we Jews any better off?  
No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both  
Jews and Greeks, are under sin (the Sin Nature), 10 as  
it is written:*

*“None is righteous, no, not one;*

*11 no one understands;*

*no one seeks for God.*

*12 All have turned aside; together they have become  
worthless; no one does good, not even one.”*

*13 “Their throat is an open grave;  
they use their tongues to deceive.”*

*“The venom of asps is under their lips.”*

*14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."*

*15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;*

*16 in their paths are ruin and misery,*

*17 and the way of peace they have not known."*

*18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

*19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.*

*20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

*Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—  
22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:  
23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,  
25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.  
26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

*27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.*

*28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*

*29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,*

*30 since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.*

*31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law (because the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it.)*

*But what of the "Old" and "New" Christians who attempt to live their Spiritual Life by keeping the Law?*

*Gal. 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.*

"Make no mistake about it, the conflict with your flesh is one of the most hostile wars you will fight as a Believer. As long as you live in the earth realm, you will have to battle with your body daily. Left unchecked, your flesh will run buck wild!

You'll find yourself overeating, lazy and slothful, committing sexual sins, engaging in adultery, homosexuality and lesbianism, practicing bulimia and given to drug, alcohol and pornographic addictions." - Gillis Triplett

But, Gillis, like so many sincere Christians, fails to add the "Good Works" of the Flesh to his list:

**5:1** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.  
**3** More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,  
**4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,  
**5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.

14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,  
18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

7:1 Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives?

2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage.

3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

## **The Romans 7 Human Good/Human Bad Teeter-Totter**

7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.

9 I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died.

10 The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.

11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

13 Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.

15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.

17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,  
23 but I see in my members another law waging war  
against the law of my mind and making me captive to  
the law of sin that dwells in my members.

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from  
this body of death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So  
then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind\*, but  
with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

So, HOW do you "serve the law of God with my mind"?

and be not conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, for your proving what [is] the will of God -- the good, and acceptable, and perfect. -- Romans 12:2 (Young's Literal Translation)

Our Minds must be transformed by the "Renovating" -- clean out the "Old" and replace it with the "New."

What is the "Old?"

What is the "New?"

How is it "Transformed?"

What is the most important word in the passage?

Will you always "serve the law of God in your Mind?"

Why not?

"but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members."

What are we to do when we fail?

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Prov. 24:16 - *“For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again.”*

Psa. 37:23-24 - *“The steps of a man are established by the Lord, And He delights in his way. When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the Lord is the One who holds his hand.”*

So, let us look at those 6 Happiness Motivators I mentioned earlier.

We have already been introduced to Religion, in our introduction, in the form of the Law.

So, we can put Religion at the top of our list, followed by the other five:

1. Religion
2. Approbation
3. Sexual
4. Materialism
5. Power
6. Chemical

We are exploring them in several ways, such as our examination of examples in real life begun last week with our look at the biography of Adolpho Constanzo, and will continue over future weeks with less horrendous examples.

However, I want to return to some didactic teaching, this week, in preparation for our next look at cultural examples from the media.

We will begin with Approbation.

### Appraisal Filtering

While the Religious Motivated person Appraises every situation through their dominant filter of their Beliefs, the Approbation Motivated person predominantly filters with their Self-concept.

To review, the primary Appraisal Filters we use to look at every event in our lives, are:

1. Self-concept
2. Attitude
3. Mood
4. Beliefs
5. Attribution
6. Knowledge

We will cover each of these more completely as we see them in our study, but if you would like to review them, they can be found on the website by searching for “Appraisal Filters”.

All of the Happiness Attainment Motivators are varyingly active in us at any one time.

Approbation can be influenced by all of the other Motivators, but usually one or two are most active in each individual:

Approbation plus Sexual results in a One on One approach to find a man or a woman to need me, love me, care for me, etc.

Approbation plus Materialism results in the reach for admiration from ones possessions.

Approbation plus Power can result in the desire for respect for one's position and ability to accomplish things.

Approbation plus Religious results in Gurus, Pastors, Music Leaders, Jihad, and what is often called a "Servant's Heart".

Approbation plus Chemical drives a need for admiration as a dare-devil, for example.

Those with an Approbation Motivated approach to life are relationship-oriented, and their domain is subjective feelings, meaning that Mood is often a chief secondary Appraisal Filter.

Remember, we all have our moments when we are Approbation Motivated, so this study will be poignant for all of us, but especially for those whose primary motivation is Approbation.

Concerned with what others think of them, image and prestige, the Approbation Motivated see themselves as existing for others.

They dislike being alone, may feel sad, inadequate, and ashamed.

They want to be loved, admired and respected.

They want to be seen as giving, needed, successful, important and unique, and more we will look at in future studies.

Life is all about them.  
In their unguarded moments, and they have a lot of them, they will tell you all about themselves—all the things that should impress you—and when finished they will allow you to talk long enough to give them a hint about what else they can say about themselves to impress you even more.

Some are compulsively motivated by the need to feel needed through caring for others, and they experience the psychological addiction of pride.

As with all Approbation Motivated people they can only feel good about themselves when you see them as they see themselves - Wonderful - so they need to be loved, to be needed, to be appreciated, to get others to respond to them and praise them privately or, better yet, publicly, to vindicate their Appraisal of themselves.

They have a very high opinion of themselves (Appraisal), but have the underlying fear that their self appraisal is better than the reality.

This is because we all have the awareness of God in us and the innate understanding of his supremacy and our inferiority.

So, Approbation Motivation is often related to Religion, a substitute for a relationship with God, making man—others—the judge of our worth.

A mixture of Approbation with Materialism can turn their approach into material giving.

We see this often in those we describe as, “trying to buy love.”

It may be a parent, who, unable to spend time with their children, will lavish them with gifts as a substitute.

It may be a man who thinks that love comes from impressing a woman with his success who uses expensive gifts to “buy her love”.

He thinks that if she is as impressed with his success as he is she will love him.

Approbation plus Materialism can also be more general and result in showing off our "toys".

Others, with more pure Approbation Motivation may give of themselves in concrete terms, as in doing things for others.

Both giving and doing can result in a feeling of entitlement, where they give to get, expecting the return of whatever good they have brought to others.

Some subtypes of Approbation -- those combined with Power and/or Materialism -- are compulsively motivated by the need to feel successful in their world. They need to be affirmed, to distinguish themselves from others, to have attention, to be admired, to impress others.

They need the admiration of others in order to feel worthy; indeed at a very deep and largely subconscious level, they feel as though they need to see their achievements, position or wealth reflected in the eyes of others in order to affirm their own Self-appraisal. Like everyone with Approbation Motivation there is a fundamental confusion about the difference between appearance and reality, image and substance, who they are and who they present themselves to be.

It is so important to our Human Nature that we have our Ideal Self Image reinforced by others. If we do not receive this confirmation, we begin to doubt our Self Appraisal and become depressed, anxious, or more deeply troubled (remember our study of the Personality Disorders). Because of the HG/HB Teeter-Totter the HB always gives us doubt about our Ideal Self Image, and if that doubt is reinforced by those around us, we begin to feel guilty about the deceit we are producing.

Approbation especially loves attention.  
Some give by showing affection and by spending time with those they are focused on.  
They work hard to make themselves attractive to be lovable -- always attractively dressed with full makeup before being seen by those they want to reach.  
With Sexual Motivation as a factor they carry "attractively dressed" to "provocatively dressed," are very flirtatious, and are very good at making the other person feel "special".  
Sometimes they are sexually aggressive to get the "love" they want.

Let's look at the Approbation Motivation combined with Power Motivation to see this.

Approbation Motivated people with Power or Materialism subtypes are people who adopt an ideal of success and attempt to embody it.

As every culture is pluralistic, there are many possible ideals from which they might choose.

Whichever ideal is chosen however, it is something which, by its very nature, is approximated by just a few in the society, group, or locale.

Approbation Motivated people with Power or Materialism subtypes are people who are, therefore forced to compete.

These are people who adopt an ideal of success and attempt to embody it -- with the truth, or without it: Their Focus of Attention: looking successful by fudging or distorting margins of the truth; delegating responsibility and claiming credit; being productive and efficient; achievement and exaggerating their importance; public acclaim; reframing failure in the positive, eliminating any failure, competition, all about me; usurping other people's hard work and success.

What happens when one of these Approbation+Power Motivated People fail, or are caught?

*They go into total Self-Deception and become Mentally "ill"; or they develop a Guilt Complex.*

What does a Guilt Complex produce?

The Reality of what they have been "producing", their facade, their image, is a lie, and they are a total failure.

This is the stage that is identified as "Low Self-Esteem."

These people have been brought to the place that God can reach them -- no longer "Self-Reliant," but "needing" somebody to help.

But, they are often so "low" that they do not believe they deserve anything -- from Man or God -- they have, in their Arrogance, usurped God's authority to be their Judge.

"I am so bad I don't deserve God's love, God's forgiveness, God's help -- NOTHING will work for me!"

It can be helpful to show them that their current "belief" is nothing more than the extension of the "Self Sufficiency" Appraisal that brought them to this place -- it's STILL "all about me" and it needs to shift to "all about God's love for me", and the Resources He has for me.

Let's look at some examples of  
Approbation Motivation in our society: