



1. Is the The "Created Thing" sinful or sin in and of itself.
  - a. Rarely is the "Created Thing" sinful but it can be used to sin.
    - i. However, if it is sinful, it is to be amputated by God's help now and then go to 2.b.
    - ii. If it is not sinful, continue....
2. Does the "Created Thing" capture our Hearts and Minds and Affections more than God?
 

If so, do the following:

  - a. Consider the stimulus (stuff that happens to you. i.e. people hurting you, sickness, concerns, etc.) and the T.E.A. (your thinking about the stimulus, the emotions based on your thinking, and the actions that result)
    1. Specifically, what is the stimulus, what is taking place in your heart, and in what "Created Thing" are you finding relief from the stimulus?
  - b. In other words, do we:
    - i. Sacrifice for it more than we do for God?
    - ii. Spend Time on it more than spend time on God (thinking of God, reading his word, prayer time, reading edifying books)?
    - iii. Spend Money on it more than things of God (tithe, giving, purchasing edifying things)?

- iv. Talk about it more than discussing the things of God (Scripture, what God is doing in your/family/friends/work/etc.)?
  - v. Protect it / defend it more than your relationship/time/view of God?
  - vi. Perfect it more than your relationship/understanding/view of God?
  - vii. Think about it more than God?
  - viii. Worry about it more than your relationship/understanding/view of God?
  - ix. Get Angry when someone blocks you from it and not trust God that we will be OK without it?
  - x. Live in Fear that you might lose it and not trust God that we will be OK without it?
- c. If yes is the answer to the any of the above, then our thinking and view of God in relation to the “Created Thing” must be corrected/modified.
- i. As done in 2.a consider the consider the stimulus and the T.E.A. concerning our thinking.
  - ii. The correction is facilitated by reading scripture, prayer, and meditating on what scripture presents about God through the whole of scripture (the Gospel). Specifically consider:
    - 1. His glory
    - 2. His attributes compared to ours
    - 3. His love toward us in our rebellion and His redeeming us
    - 4. His ongoing grace to us as He forgives, corrects, and empowers us
    - 5. General deductions about God and creation based on scripture:
      - a. i.e. the Westminster Confession, chapter 1.6 states “The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men....” These deductions include:
        - i. The fact that the “Created Thing” cannot satisfy like God since it does not have “being within itself.” In other words, all things derive from God. Therefore they are lesser and therefore cannot satisfy as He can and does.
        - ii. Realize that since God created it, and all things, He knows how it should be properly used to bring Him maximum glory and you ultimate satisfaction.
  - iii. Our actions must be corrected/modified to match the corrected/modified thinking.
    - 1. *to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the*

*likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.* (Ephesians 4:22-24 ESV)

2. In short, stop what you are doing concerning the “Created Thing,” renew your thinking (as discussed in 2.b above founded on scripture), and then replace the old actions with new based on the new thinking.
3. Now, view the “Created Thing” in the light of God (2.b.1-5 above) and in your thoughts and actions, enjoy God and the “Created Thing” in the light of your God and Savior!
4. Review and repeat the above while rejoicing in God and what He has done, is doing, and will do!
  - a. i.e. Review, repent, remodel, rejoice and repeat. :-)