



Choose Wisely
Romans 7:15-19; Galatians 5:19-21; James 1:14-16
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
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Bottom Line: What we **naturally want** is rarely what we **ultimately want**.

Review:

What do you want? What do you think you want?

It's a tricky question for lots of reasons: We want our way. We want to do what we want to do. We want it now! But ...

- If we always **get** our way, we'll **lose** our way.
- If we always do what we **want**, we'll end up where we **don't want**.
- If we get what we want **now**, we may not get what we *really* want **later**.

Introduction:

Lurking in the shadows of what we **want** is what we **value**. We will never get what we *really* want until we **discover** what we really value.

And ... Jesus followers must go one step further. We will never get what we *really* **want** until we discover what is *most* **valuable**.

The problem is ...

Choosing **valuable** is **unnatural**.

Romans 7:15 (NIV84), “**I do not** understand what **I do**. For what **I want** to do I do not do, but what I **hate** I do.”

Implication: There's something I **really** want. But I settle for something less, and I end up **hating** it.

“And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. For I have the desire to do what is good but I **cannot** carry it out (Romans 7:16, 18 NIV84).”

“For I do not do the good I **want** to do, but the evil I do **not want** to do – this I keep on doing (Romans 7:19 NIV).”

What we **naturally** want is often in conflict with what we **ultimately** want.

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV84), “The acts of the sinful **nature** are **obvious**: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, **jealousy**, fits of rage (outburst of anger), **selfish** ambition, dissension, factions (division), and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will **not inherit** the kingdom of God.”

What we **naturally** want is often in conflict with what we **ultimately** want.

Odds are one or more of those things have kept you from getting what you ultimately want.

James 1:14-16 (NIV), “... but each person is tempted when they are **dragged away** by their own evil **desire** and **enticed**. Then, after **desire** has conceived, it gives birth to **sin**; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to **death**. Don’t be **deceived**, my dear brothers and sisters.”

Application:

Don’t trade the ultimate for the immediate.

Don’t trade ultimately want for naturally want.

Jesus directs our attention to the ultimate over the immediate.

So, what do you **really** want? What’s **most** important to you?

Do you keep getting dragged away from what you **actually** want by what you **naturally** want?

Between now and next time, answer the following three questions:

1. What do I **really** want?

2. What's *dragging* me away?

3. How long do I plan to let what I naturally want drag me away from what I ultimately want?

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Matthew 7:13-14**
- Answer the Three Questions for Next Week**
- Join A Community Group This Week**
- Join Us Next Week for Part 3– Last Things First**