



Last Things First
Romans 7:15; Galatians 5:22-26
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
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Bottom Line: Discover what you value, value what you discover, and don't be surprised if you discover God's will for you in the process.

Review:

What do you want? That's a tricky question. We've all gotten what we wanted and ended up with the very thing we didn't want.

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**.

The problem is what we **naturally** want is often in conflict with what we **ultimately** value.

The Apostle Paul summed it up this way, "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do (Romans 7:15 NIV84)."

So, how do we discover what we value?

"If you carefully consider what you wanted to be said of you in the funeral experience, you will find your definition of success."

- Stephen Covey, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

When you're finished with this exercise, you will discover your definition of success is more **character**-centered than **accomplishment**-centered.

For Jesus followers, **sin** will become synonymous with **failure**.

To get what you really want, you must **discover** what you *really* value. You must discover what's **most** important. It will keep **want** from getting in the way of **want most**. But, for Jesus followers, there's more ...

What does God *really* want **for** us?

We assume competing agendas. We assume surrender = unhappy and unfulfilled. But it's not. Surrender is the way to happiness and fulfillment.

The eulogy exercise not only draws us **closer** to what we *really* want, it hints at what we were created **for**.

So, what does God want for us? Paul gives us a hint in Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB):

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ...”

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us **keep in step** with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, **provoking** and envying each other (Galatians 5:25-26 NASB).”

So, what do you *really* want?

Conclusion:

First, discover what's most important to you.

Think about it. Make some notes. Do the eulogy exercise.

When you discover what you really **value**, you will be less prone to settle for what you merely **want**.

When what's actually important becomes most important, you are on your way to getting what you really want.

And don't be surprised if you come face to face with the will of your heavenly Father along the way!

NEXT STEPS:

- ❑ **Memorize: Galatians 5:22-23**

- Do the Eulogy Exercise**
- Join A Community Group This Week**
- Join Us Next Week for Part 4– Think It Through**