

OPEN WATER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAY 24 | CRAIG REES

Proverbs 17:24 • John 8:31-32, 44 • 1 John 3:5-8 • Galatians 5:16-18 • Philippians 1:6, 4:13

My character defects come from my chromosomes, my circumstances, and my choices.

1. Change is something we have all had to get used to through the first half of 2020. How well do you handle change? What makes it so easy or, as the case may be, difficult for you?
2. My defects come from my chromosomes, circumstances, and choices. Which of these three has had the biggest impact on you and why?
3. Identifying with our defects makes it harder to change them. Pastor Craig said, “You are not your defect or addiction and the longer you say you are, the harder it will be to change.” Can you think of a defect that became too tied to your identity? How did you change that thinking?
4. We struggle to change because our defects have payoffs. Craig shared how his self-sufficiency and reservation prevented him from making a fool of himself in public. The issues we struggle with have payoffs too. Think of an issue you struggled with. What was the payoff? How did you come to realize that the payoff was never worth it?
5. Read John 8:44 and 1 John 3:5-8. From these verses, how would you summarize the work of Jesus? How easy is it for you to think about our struggles with the controlling power of sin in terms of the “devil’s work”?
6. From Proverbs 17:24 we can discover that focus and concentration are keys to making progress in our sanctification (being made holy). How do you focus on dealing with your defects?
7. From Philippians 4:13, how do you ensure that this work of sanctification is a work of the Spirit not a work of your own making?
8. How do we prioritize progress over perfection? What lessons have you “perfectionists” learned that can help us all?