**Vice Grip: Avoiding the Misguided Pursuit of Happiness**

**Today: All Capitals**

**Speaker: Ronnie Norman, Senior Minister**

***Colossians 3:5-10***

*5Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

**Seven Deadly Sins**

Pride

Lust

Gluttony

Greed

Sloth

Anger

Envy

**Seven Capital Vices**

Envy: Bitter When Others Have It Better

Vainglory: Image is Everything

Sloth (Acedia): Resistance to the Demands of Love

Avarice (Greed): I Want It All

Anger: Holy Emotion or Hellish Passion?

Gluttony: Feeding Your Face and Starving Your Heart

Lust: Smoke, Fire, and Ashes

**IMAGE OF ROOTS**

**https://assets.atlasobscura.com/article\_images/29948/image.jpg**

**Why This Series?**

1. **Virtue begins with fleeing vice.**
2. **We are prone to misguided pursuits of happiness.**
3. **There is no limit to self-deception.**
* **Blaming**
* **Worship**
* **Comparing**

**Blaming**

**Genesis 3:7-12**

*7Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

*8Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”*

*10He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”*

*11And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”*

*12The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”*

**Worship**

***1 Samuel 15:22***

*22But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord?* ***To obey is better than sacrifice****, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

**Comparing**

**Romans 3:10-12**

*10As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;
11    there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.
12All have turned away, they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good, not even one.”*

1. **Our aim is to please God, not just be accepted by God.**

***2 Corinthians 5:9***

*So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.*

“Saving or justifying grace should be only the beginning, not the finale, of our Christian story.” – Dallas Willard

1. **We can confess and repent well under grace.**

***1 John 1:8-9***

*8If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

***Psalm 139:23-24***

*23Search me, God, and know my heart;
    test me and know my anxious thoughts.
24See if there is any offensive way in me,
    and lead me in the way everlasting.*