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Sin Characteristics – Habakkuk 2:5

A Devotion for Families by *Dr. Jim Smyrl*

Ask: According to Habakkuk 2:5 what substance encouraged the Chaldeans to sin?

Ask: What are the characteristics of the person in verse 5?

Observe: Verse 5 tells us that alcoholic drinks were the substance that encouraged the Chaldeans to sin. They, like us, had a sin nature. The alcohol encouraged them to act according to their sin nature. As a result of them willingly putting a substance in their body that encouraged them to sin, they cared little for others and much for themselves.

Examine the Verse

“by wine”: Wine was the stimulator of their sin nature. There are 1000’s of stimulators for our sin nature. A stimulator of sin is anything that encourages us to act or think in a way that misrepresents God’s nature and character.

Ask: Let’s list some people, objects, activities, places, and situations that encourage us to act or think in a way that misrepresents God’s nature and character.

Ask: If these things encourage us to sin, what should we do about each?

“proud man”: Because he willingly chose to follow his sinful desires, his pride increased. Pride is the belief that we are the center of all that happens. A prideful person looks at all of life and asks, “How does that affect my life?” Everything that happens in a prideful person’s life, he believes is valued by the way it affects him.

Ask: Have there been times, recently, that you have noticed pride in your life?

Lead: Let’s each pray silently and ask God to forgive us of thinking too much of ourselves and too little of Him.

“does not stay at home”: The stimulators of our sin nature causes us to neglect our roles within the family. God has ordained the family as the primary group of people to which we are devoted. Anything that we engage in that causes us to act or think in a way that misrepresents God’s character, will result in us neglecting one another.

Ask: How does God want us to treat each other? (See Ephesians 5:22-6:4 for specifics)

Ask: Are we treating each other in the way Scripture tells us to?

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Lead: Let's list one specific act we can do for each other this week that is directly obeying God's will as stated in Ephesians. We will post our acts on the refrigerator or bulletin board to remind us throughout the week.

"enlarges his desire as hell": Evidence that we are living according to our sin nature and not in order to honor God with our lives is that our desires are not godly. Ungodly desires are any inclination in us that causes us to want to act or think in a way that is contrary to God's nature and character.

Ask: Make a list of desires that you have had recently that were not godly. This list will include things you thought, wanted, and felt that were not consistent with God's character and nature.

Lead: Ask each family member to share a few of the desires they wrote down. Ask other family members to pray for each other to be strong in the grace of God in order to resist those desires.

"cannot be satisfied": It has been wisely said, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." The person that is living according to their sin nature constantly looks for something else to satisfy him.

Ask: Have you been guilty of looking for what you are going to get next and not being satisfied with what you have now?

Lead: Let's pray that God will make us content with who we are in Christ, what He provides for us, and living our lives for His glory.