

Resolutions Core

John 5:1-15

1-03-2010

“..Do you want to get well?”

Sounds like a silly question to be asking some one who has been crippled for 38 years doesn't it? I could hear just hear how some one from today would answer that question – Duh! Yeah! To answer yes seems like what anyone of us would cry out, but there is something deeper going on here than what meets the surface – sin.

This man is warned after his healing to not sin anymore or something worse would happen to him. (ver. 14) This warning is similar to the warning given to the woman caught in adultery. (John 8:11) We do not know what the sin issue was in this mans life but it caused him to be crippled for 38 years. Think about the implications. How old would he have been when he was first struck with this crippling malady? 25? 20? Or 15? (Wonder what his sin was?)

There are things here we can not know but there is much we can consider from this event, deduce from it and from life. Some illnesses are directly related to sin issues. Sin has an effect on life style or life habits. Illness has an effect on life style or habits. To get well is more than not being ill; it also means changing life styles or habits that are driven by the illness. (Example – I once had knee surgery that took several months to recover from, at some point I had to put up the habit of using my cane.)

Another example of life styles being affected would be like when I was 13 and began to smoke cigarettes. Consider all the ways this choice (sin?) effected my life style: I had to sneak, steal, lie, connive, change allegiances and friendships, adjust how time is spent, how money is spent, and a few other things like develop an alter person.

There is not one sin issue in anyone's life that does not also have similar effects. Sin alters life's habits and style and choices. When anyone reaches a place of desiring to get well they must also consider the residual effects that that choice will have on life habit or style. How life is structured.

Let's bring this home a little closer: each one of us has some type of health malady that to some extent cripples us. It might be physical, mental or spiritual or some combination of. It does not matter which one(s) it is because all of them have an effect on our life's habits and our life style and one can not be dealt with without considering the other. Generally someone who is crippled in some capacity is excused from certain responsibilities. To be well removes the excusing. Follow me? It does not make any difference what the illness is; it brings with it its own set of excuses. (2Pet.2:17-22; Gal.4:8-9; Rom.6:6, 16-23; 1Tm. 5:11-15)

If you would be free, (1Jn.5:19) if you would be healthy, then you would also be free of the excuses that hold your life hostage to its demands. Smoking is an easy example to use – consider how much time was given back to me, consider how much money was given back to me, consider how much health is given back to me, consider how much inconvenience was removed from my life, consider who my associations could change to or from, consider what doors would open that were once closed. I chose to get well.

Like I said, smoking is the easiest to pick on because it is so visual but just replace it with your own illness. How does that malady affect your life style or life's habit? List them out and ask yourself if you honestly would like to be free of all those effects in your life. Jesus came to earth to bring you and me freedom from sin. (Mat.1:21; Rm.6:20) The cure – 4 R's = Repent, Renounce, Reclaim and Restructure.