

5. **Sexual Arrogance.** Self-gratification in which sex is ritual without reality and a frantic search for happiness. Without the power of biblical guidance and restraint, the unbridled soul easily justifies all manner of sexual perversions.

1 Corinthians 6:18 - Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

Romans 1:26 - For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

v. 27 - and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. (NASB)

6. **Criminal Arrogance.** An insolent attitude that unlawfully disregards the rights, privacy, or property of others. The lust to take what belongs to others originates from a depraved mind that rejects the concept of private property. He pridefully believes himself to be above the law while convinced he is a good person.

Romans 13:4 - It [“governing authority” (v. 1)] is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing, for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

The last five commandments of the Top 10 prohibit murder, adultery, theft, perjury, and lust for “anything that belongs to your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:12–17)

7. **Psychopathic Arrogance.** Subjectivity produces distorted thinking that creates a fantasy world in the soul. Good decisions broaden future options but bad decisions limit future options. The latter problem is caused by divorcement from reality that results in distorted thinking built on fantasies.

A society of arrogant people naturally develops psychopathic people. Psychotherapy is a big business whose solutions rely on human viewpoint in attempts to restore rational thought.

In the psychotic state, a believer cannot recover through Bible doctrine and rebound. Removal of scar tissue is initiated by techniques provided by psychiatric treatments that are assisted by prescription medicines which enable the person to begin functioning in a normal manner.

A person in advanced reversionism cannot process doctrine while in a psychotic state nor cured by means of prayer.

Prayer is not a problem-solving device; therefore, prayer cannot reverse years and decades of bad decisions made by a person's free-will choices.

Arrogance leads to rejection of authority which is an imbalance caused by a revolt in the soul. This mentality naturally confronts the divine standards established by divine decree.

Recovery from psychopathic arrogance, especially when accompanied by addictions, requires (1) consistent use of rebound to extract oneself from cosmic thinking, (2) proper medication prescribed by a trained physician, (3) continued treatment and medication, and (4) inculcation of biblical principles that gradually removes scar tissue of the soul.

Romans 1:21 - Even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened,

v. 22 - Professing to be wise they became fools.

8. **Unhappiness.** This category emphasizes a believer's preoccupation with himself brought about by misunderstanding what actually results in happiness.

There are three categories of soul function that are classified as a form of happiness: (1) pseudo-happiness, (2) natural happiness, and (3) divine happiness.

Pseudo happiness may be depicted as minus-H. This category is temporal and evanescent. Things that excite, entertain, stimulate, and titillate produce emotional responses including amusement, inspiration, and stimulation – all emotional responses that do not last.

Malachi 3:15 - So now we call the arrogant happy [אֲשֶׁר ('*ashar*): to be happy or blessed. Unbelievers who enjoy prosperity, but are minus a relationship with God. Their success came from submission to Luciferian allurements. Believers assume such people are happy yet without the capacity for true happiness.] Those who practice evil are successful [the devil's world offers many opportunities for profit but without integrity]. In fact, those who challenge divine standards even escape [i.e., "Why do the wicked prosper?"].

v. 16 - Those that honored the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord took notice. A scroll [An ongoing record of the names of believers.¹] was prepared before him in which were recorded the names of those who respected the Lord and honored His name.

Neutral happiness is derived by submission to the laws of divine establishment. An interesting example of this concept is found in the life of unbelievers in:

Lamentations 9:9 - Enjoy life with your beloved wife during all the days of your fleeting life that God has given you under the sun; for this is your reward in life and in your burdensome work on earth.

¹ When Malachi was written, Jerusalem was under Persian control. The Persian kings kept a book of those who did favors to the king and he would later reward them. This is being used as an example for God keeps record of the achievements of believers and they will be evaluated and rewarded at the evaluation tribunal. (Unpublished notes of R. B. Thieme, Jr, Malachi 3:16.)

The word “enjoy” is the verb רָאָה (*ra'a*) and is used idiomatically:

The absurdity of human striving for knowledge as a way to achieve a meaningful life and enduring happiness leaves as “gain” only the enjoyment of the pleasures offered by the fleeting moment (9:9: *ra'a*).²

Plus Happiness. This is the life of the believer who has acquired the thinking of God and enjoys the blessings associated with the sophisticated spiritual life.

True happiness is not affected by the circumstances of life, such as the circumstances encountered from other people or difficult exigencies of a personal nature.

Paul expresses the concepts of plus-H in:

Philippians 1:21 - For me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

Philippians 4:11b - ... I have learned to be content in any circumstance.

v. 12 - I have experienced times of need and times of abundance. In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of contentment, whether I go satisfied or hungry, have plenty or nothing.

v. 13 - I am able to do all things through the one who pours the power into me.

John summed up the source of true happiness, or +H, in:

1 John 1:4 - We [human authors of the New Testament] are writing these things [the main verb emphasizes the writers' transition from oral communication to a written canon] so that [purpose clause] our [both that of the writers' and the recipients'] state of happiness might be completed.

² H. F. Fuhs, “*ra'a*,” in *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, eds. G. Johannes Botterweck, Helmer Ringgren, and Heinz-Josef Fabry, trans. David E. Green (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004), 13:228.

John will continue his epistle by emphasizing the means by which true happiness is ascertained: spiritual growth toward the sophisticated spiritual life inside the bubble of the divine dynasphere.