

## “Hyde”

“*What streak of madness lies inside of me that makes Edward Hyde of me?*” This question was posed by Dr. Jekyll as he struggled to come to grips with an internal force of evil that resided inside of him. An evil that was opposite of who he was in nature and in character, yet often manifested itself in the most egregious ways to the most horrible of circumstances. The famous mid-18<sup>th</sup> century novel by Robert Louis Stevens, which has been popularized for many years through many mediums of entertainment, carries a strong truth that exists and faces every true believer in Christ today. To fully understand this analogy, let’s take a moment to do a character analysis of Hyde.

Edward Hyde, the evil counterpart of Dr. Jekyll (a rather mild and passive individual with good intentions), is a violent, self-absorbed, self-gratifying psychopath who is bent on stealing, killing and destroying. He exists only to fulfill the cravings of his flesh, commit acts of evil, and create havoc in the life of Dr. Jekyll. The idea of Edward Hyde is no more than who we truly are *without Christ*. If we are honest with ourselves we can immediately see a strong parallel between the story of Jekyll and Hyde and our own selves. It is the quintessential battle between good and evil, sin and righteousness. It is exactly what Paul spoke about in his letter to the Romans (7:19) when he said that the “very things that he wants to do, he does not, yet the very things that he knows that he should not do, this he continues to do”. It is not too far fetched to imagine Paul asking himself the same question that the fictitious Dr. Jekyll asked himself... “*what streak of madness lies inside of me...?*”

We can observe in our lives the strange obsession that lies within our hearts that is bent toward evil. An internal desire to do evil, revel in natural desires, and crave the things opposed to goodness and the things of God. This internal force, once given opportunity, can manipulate and dominate your thoughts, actions, and emotions, therefore creating destruction in your life. The internal warfare that Paul faced is the same for us today as it was for him and every true believer hence. The warfare is constant and unending. Our sinful nature (our own Edward Hyde) is never too far from striking distance and has the ability to launch an attack at whim. In fact, as soon as you open your eyes, the internal battle begins. The internal battle, which wages war against the members of your body (Romans 7:23), imparts itself in the areas where we struggle the most in our sinful nature. The areas include sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery... (Galatians 5:19). The reality is that this war will continue while we are still here on earth and have declared a life to Jesus; for this is the reason why the sinful nature exists, to draw us away from God. It is not doing evil for the sake of doing evil but for what it does to our relationship with God. Sin is just the instrument that evil utilizes to alienate us from God and ultimately bring us death (eternal separation from God) for such are the wages of sin. (Romans 6:23).

Since, we know that the sinful nature is hostile to God (Romans 8:6), then we should not find it surprising that we find battles waging internally on a daily and constant basis. As the natural man looks to gain positioning on our spiritual man, frustration and weariness can set in. We can become frustrated because it seems that no matter how hard we fight in battle, not only does it continue but it can actually intensify. This can cause us to become weary and let our guard down. These are the moments that we must remember the exhortations that are divinely written for us in Scripture to aid us in this internal struggle:

A) “*...never tire in doing what is right.*” (2 Thes. 3:13); even though the battles will continue to absorb your energies, focus, and attitudes we must never get to the point where we get so worn out that we give up the fight or begin to compromise.

B) “*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*” (1 Cor. 10:13); recognizing that you are not the only one that is going through these

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battles. They are experienced by all Christians and therefore you have others who will understand and give you support and help. And finally...

C) “...*I can do all things through Christ which gives me strength.*” (1 Phil. 4:13); Jesus becomes our ultimate aid to carry us through this war. His strength is what will bring us through. It is the only viable and reliable source that Dr. Jekyll did not have when he faced his Edward Hyde.

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