

<b><i>Abstain / Withdraw</i></b>		<b><i>Engage</i></b>
Spirit of the World	<i>1 Cor 2:6-16</i>	Spirit of Christ (Holy Spirit!)
Natural man (the flesh)	<i>Col 2:6-3:17</i>	Spiritual Man
Pride	<i>Clothe yourselves with humility (1 Peter 5:5)</i>	Humility
Selfish Ambition & Vain Conceit	<i>Set aside selfish ambition and conceit. (Phil 2:3-4)</i>	Consider others more significant than yourselves.
Things that puff up	<i>1 Corinthians 8:1</i>	Love
Fear of man (others opinions)	<i>Mt 10:28</i>	Fear of God - a God's eye view
Overly introspective, driven by superficial needs and feelings	<i>Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:2)</i>	practice disengaging from your superficial responses (feels) by asserting truth
	<b><i>Spiritual Practices</i></b>	
<b><u>Abstain / Withdraw</u></b>		<b><u>Engage</u></b>
<b>Solitude and Silence</b>	<i>Psalms 62</i>	<b>Study and Worship</b>
<b>Fasting</b>	<i>Isaiah 58</i>	<b>Service</b>
	<i>Nehemiah 8:9-12</i>	<b>Celebration</b>
<b>Frugality</b>	<i>God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:6-7)</i>	<b>Generosity</b>
<b>Secrecy</b>	<i>Your Father sees what is done in secret. (Mt 6)</i>	<b>Fellowship</b>
<b>Busy-ness (Sabbath)</b>	<i>Sabbath was made for man (Mt 2:27)</i>	<b>Beauty and Rest (Sabbath!)</b>

## Living in Humility, Living in Christ

### **I. Humility series — how to actually *live* in humility**

- A. Advent - clothe yourselves in humility
  - 1. Pat - "try it on!"
  - 2. take off the old clothes
- B. Live in humility — New Years', Days of Dedication
- C. humility *is* death to self - cf Phil 2:3-4 — which is our calling
  - 1. not as exciting — but it's central
    - a) Take up your cross and follow - Luke 9:23-25
    - b) Count the Cost - Luke 14:25-33
    - c) Treasure in the field - Mt 13:44

### **II. Leave behind and put on — Abstain and engage**

- A. Scripture is full of this idea that the old has to go for the new to come
  - 1. Left column is death to self - Right is New life in Christ
  - 2. true for any new thing - if you want something new something old has to die
    - a) so we find in Scripture this rhythm
      - (1) Jewish calendar & church calendar
- B. Put this in front of us for the Days of Dedication and fasting (and NYE)
  - 1. we all have things that need to go — that keep us from being who we'd like to be
- C. Our souls in a tech age become so full of junk so quickly — like junk drawers that you can't even open anymore
  - 1. holiday eating practices
- D. Spiritual practices - Column B is a lot more fun - but Column A is req'd for more of Column B
  - 1. new life - but some areas untouched
  - 2. I think our spirituality sometimes looks like my holiday eating practices
    - a) backpacking — if you want to go faster and farther your pack has to get lighter
    - b) paired them so it's easy to see how B -> A

### **III. Dissecting this a bit - but this is the natural movement of a person in love**

- A. Naturally abstain from things that get in the way of you engaging in your love
- B. If you're super in love not very helpful to dissect things, you're doing it naturally
  - 1. in love and in faith there's a lot you have to just let happen (cf. date night too early)
  - 2. but over time you might need some reminders — you might have times when you realize that some of that love has died - and then it's right to do an autopsy
    - a) "worries of the world" — it's mostly column A that frees us from "worries" that the seed of the gospel might flourish
- C. Main thing in the Bible is love — but we run into trouble with the concept of love
  - 1. intensity of emotion v. suzerainty treaty
    - a) just intensity of emotion is like a hot air balloon w/ no ballast
    - b) love is both intensity of emotion (Jesus) and death to self
    - c) journey is love of God and neighbor - and we cannot walk that w/o death to self. The "Self" is too heavy a burden to carry.
      - (1) but humility, to let that "self" go (*and there are things we can do to do that!*) is to walk freely, lightly, joyfully
- D. Saint Francis illustration