

## **Feeding The Dog**

**I.** A story is told of an Indian being baptized into Christ. It didn't take long though for this Indian to fall away. The preacher went to see this Indian and he asked why he had not been faithful in his living. The Indian replied,

**II.** It's like I have two dogs in me and they are constantly fighting each other. One dog is good and one dog is bad and the bad always wins. The preacher asked, "Why do you think the bad dog always wins?" Thinking for while, He answered "I guess I feed him more"

**III.** When we think about this story we can see how true this really is.

**IV.** Paul also spoke of a similar battle he faced. **Romans 7:14-23**

**V.** I believe Paul is speaking of his state when he was living under the Old Law. But that does not mean that the spiritual battle has ended. **Eph. 6:12**

**VI.** Today I would like to spend some time studying this idea of feeding the bad over the good.

**VII.** It is a problem that we all struggle with at some time or another and we must be prepared to deal with it. I believe when we have completed this study it will be evident,

**C.I.** We must nourish and feed the good rather than the bad if we are to remain faithful.

**Trans:** Let's begin by looking at feeding the bad dog.

### **1. Feeding The Bad Dog**

A. There is an expression that states, "You are what you eat"

1. This may not be completely true
2. Nevertheless it is accurate in some ways.

B. Biblically speaking **Proverbs 23:7** states a similar thought.

1. "For as he thinks within himself, so he is."
2. Also note Mark 7:14-23

C. We are a product of what we take into our hearts. If we find ourselves constantly taking in that which is contrary to God's will then we are feeding the bad dog. Thus we will behave in a like manner doing that which is evil.

- D. The question then arises in what ways are we feeding the bad dog?
1. We might be sitting at the wrong table.
    - a. **1 Cor. 15:33,34**
    - b. In restaurants there are smoking and nonsmoking sections.
  2. We might not be content with the good meal of God's word set before us.
    - a. **1 Tim 6:6-10**
    - b. **Prov. 23:1-3**
  3. We might like the taste of what the bad dog likes. **2 Tim. 4:10**
  4. We might not have acquired a taste for the good food, **Heb. 5:14**

**Illust:** Think about a child that is testing out food for the first time. There are certain things he will attach to right away. Generally they are the sweet things. Those which are not as good as some other things. But as time goes on he will begin to acquire a taste for the good foods. The vegetables etc... If we constantly allow our children to eat just the "junk food" they will be a product of what they eat.

What they take in will begin to show in their bodies. And it will be reflected in their activities as well. Thus the children will be out of shape and overweight. Either from eating the wrong thing and/or an excess of them.

**Appl:** It can be easy for us as Christians to find ourselves indulging in that which is not good for us and so we feed the bad dog.

Satan will dangle what seems to be dainty morsels before us and if we are not careful we will find ourselves indulging in these things.

The more we feed the bad dog the stronger he gets and if we are not careful we will starve the good dog and the bad will over talk us. Eventually we will find ourselves separated from God.

**Trans:** Let's now turn to feeding the good dog

## **2. Feeding the good dog**

- A. Within our lives the good dog should have a greater hunger than the bad dog,  
**Matt. 5:6**
- B. This being the case we should have a greater desire to feed the good

C. If we will constantly feed the good the bad will eventually be starved out.

D. How do we go about feeding the good dog?

1. There should be a hunger for the word of righteousness.
  - a. **Ps. 73:25-26**
  - b. **1Pet. 2:1-3**
  
2. We must sit at the table with those of a like mind,
  - a. **1 Cor. 15:33**
  - b. **1 Cor. 10:21**
  - c. Alcoholic does not hang around at the bar hoping to quit.
  
3. We must not give into our cravings for the bad  
**Prov. 23:6**  
**Prov. 24:1**  
**1 Peter 5:8,9**
  
4. The things we ask for must be desirable by the good dog only, **Phil. 4:8**
  
5. We must buffet our bodies against wanting to feed the bad dog, **1Cor. 9:24-27**
  
6. We must not forget our dietary plan, **James 1:21**

**Illust:** Athletes are those who are well trained in their dietary habits. Although they might have a desire to eat the “junk food” they know if they are going to compete and have a chance at winning whatever event they are in they must restrain themselves.

**Appl:** As Christians we must have an even greater desire than these athletes. Why? Because we are competing for an even greater prize. One that is eternal. If we are going to endure we must take into our bodies that which will aid us.

It is only the pure milk of the word that will do this. Those dainty morsels might look good but we must see them as God sees them, 2 Peter 2:22. If we will do this we will not desire them.

So we can see,

We must nourish and feed the good rather than the bad if we are to remain faithful.

**Con:** There is a spiritual war taking place and the strongest will win. You need to ask yourself. Inside of me, which dog do I feed more? Whose table am I sitting at and what is it I am taking into

my heart.

Don't let the bad dog win because you are feeding it more than the good. The plate is before you all you need to do is reach for the good food of God's word and feed that good dog. In doing so you will starve out the bad dog and nourish the good. Thus you will remain faithful until the end having strengthened yourself to fight this spiritual battle until the end.