

### The Gap Between The Real and The Ideal

Philippians 3:12-15

- Because of sin:
  - no ideal world (Genesis 3:17-24)
  - no ideal people (Romans 3:9-11; 1 John 1:8, 10)
  - no ideal relationships – home, church, government
- The presence of the gap generates good and bad attempts to cope

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- I. For Some, The Solution Is To *Repeal The Ideal*
  - deny the perfect standard: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Colossians 2:8; James 1:25
  - distort the perfect standard: Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Peter 3:16
- II. For Others, The Solution Is To *Accept The Real Without Improvement*
  - no desire to correct sin: Philippians 3:18-19; Ephesians 4:17-19
  - no desire to grow: Hebrews 5:12 – 6:1; Philippians 3:12-15

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- III. For Some, The Solution Is To *Abandon The Struggle For The Ideal*
  - With self
    - accept status quo – political correctness
    - escapism – drugs, hedonism, error: 2 Peter 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
  - With relationships
    - Marriage/Home: Colossians 3:18-21
    - Church: Philippians 2:1-5
    - Government: Romans 13:1-7

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- IV. Then, There Are Those Who *Patiently Strive For The Ideal*
  - patience for self: John 2:1-3; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:25
  - patience in relationships: Galatians 5:6
    - \* Family: 1 Peter 3:1-2; Ephesians 6:4
    - \* Brethren: Philippians 2:1-5
    - \* World: Matthew 5:44-48; Romans 13:8-10
- We will not be lost for not reaching the ideal
- We will be lost for *not reaching for* the ideal