

Of Quislings and Self-betrayal

The noun “*quisling*” was very rapidly accepted into our language during World War II as a term for traitor. I think you'll find its etymology interesting.

The Merriam-Webster New Book of Word Histories, s.v., “quisling” [pp.387-88]:

From this history we can appreciate the definitions of the word given in English dictionaries:

Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language, 2nd edition, 2d ed., s.v. “quisling”:

a person who betrays his country by helping an enemy to invade and occupy it; a traitor.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. “quisling”:

a traitor who collaborates with the invaders of his country especially by serving in a puppet government.

American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, s.v. “quisling”:

A traitor who serves as the puppet of the enemy occupying his country.

Morris Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins, s.v. “quisling”:

a traitor, especially one who is placed in a position of power by the enemy.

It becomes obvious that the terms ménage à trois and “*quisling*” perfectly describe the believer who submits to the temptations of his sinful nature and “*goes a whoring after the heathen.*”

In closing, if the use of these terms, especially ménage à trois, offend and even repulse you, think of how the Lord feels toward your infidelities toward Him as your second Husband. And, I might add, repulsion can function as a means of gaining a moment of objectivity for the self-righteously arrogant.

The lascivious person clearly understands the implication of Paul's behavior pattern but the ascetic, who would never consider marital betrayal, fails to get the message. The reality that you too can be involved in a spiritual ménage à trois may be repulsive to you but it is intended as a goad to teach the point that sin is an adulterous act against the Lord.

The Lord is gracious. He will not divorce you. He will accept you back. All you have to do is confess your tryst to God and you will be restored to the filling of the Holy Spirit and to fellowship with God and Christ. In this manner you are enabled to exit status quo carnality and reacquire status quo spirituality.

Romans 7:15 - For what I do, what persistently works its way out of me [facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness which have become paths of least resistance], I do not understand, for what I desire, these things I am tendentially not practicing ...

Paul continues his testimony about his behavior pattern with the conjunction of contrast: *alla* - “*but.*” Sets us a contrast between what Paul desires to do as a believer in the second marriage and what he actually does in his ménage à trois with his first husband. The ménage à trois is referred to by the pronoun: *hos* - “*what*” followed by the present active indicative of the verb: *miseo* - “*to hate*”; “*to detest.*”

present - Descriptive; that which is now going on. Presents to the mind a picture of events as in the process of occurrence therefore sometimes called the Pictorial present.

active - The normal attitude the believer has toward his ménage à trois with the first husband is to be repulsed by it to the point of detestation.

indicative - Potential; show contingency. Whether the believer is actually disgusted by his behavior is dependent upon his volition. In carnality, the believer should be disgusted to the point of rebound. But in reversionism, his insensitivity may have reached a point of callousness.

“but what I detest ...” Next comes another pronoun again describing his behavior pattern during the ménage à trois: ἄυτοη - *“these things.”* Refers to the wheel-tracks of wickedness which are acted upon during the ménage à trois. This is followed by the present active indicative of the verb: *poieo* - *“I keep on doing.”*

present - Retroactive progressive; Action in progress or in a state of persistence. Denotes what has begun in the past and continues to the present, thus indicates strong linear action.

This is one of the several ways that the present tenses found in this passage indicate facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness.

We have learned that when a person stores any thought, decision, or action into long-term memory traces, an electrochemical change takes place in the brain. This pathway, formally called an engram, becomes a permanent record of that event and may be recalled to the conscious mind if accessed by the proper vector. Every time it is recalled, decided upon, and subsequently acted upon a phenomenon known as facilitation occurs. This means that the memory trace becomes more and more efficient in its function and, as a result, it becomes easier and easier to activate.

If a wheel-track of wickedness is utilized often enough it becomes a behavior pattern. In fact, it becomes the path of least resistance for that person whenever his sinful nature fires up a particular vector through the appropriate lust pattern.

Conditioned for years to respond to the temptation in a certain way, the volition, in an almost automatic way, consistently orders the brain to carry out the activity stored in the activated memory trace. You may not want to do it, you may know better, you may detest your involvement with it, but you do it nonetheless.

Wheel-tracks of wickedness have been facilitated into paths of least resistance and under the proper temptation, your volition will commit a ménage à trois. The sinful nature has again gained control of your soul and you are left defeated by your own inability to withstand its assault.

active - The carnal believer produces the action by becoming involved in a ménage à trois. indicative - Declarative; a statement of biblical reality for believers in status quo carnality.

Romans 7:15 - For what I do, what perpetually works its way out of me, I do not understand because what I resolve to do, these things I am tendentially not practicing, but what I detest, these things I keep on doing.