

Idleness  
(From R.C.I.A. class)  
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Tic-tock, tic-tock, tic-tock. I keep hearing the clock on the wall. Each tic-tock was at one point my future. Suddenly it became my present, and immediately it became my past, never to be lived again. Over the years there has been billions and billions of tic-tocks. What does one tic-tock more or less mean to me, except that very last one and then there is no more left. Then how I wish I had those wasted tic-tocks back so I could properly prepare for that last one. I didn't think those tic-tocks meant anything when I wasted them because they were so small and there were always more to come. I betrayed myself in idleness wasting one of God's special gifts of creation: time. Idleness is not always doing nothing. The more the tic-tocks pass me by, the more they wear me down. Imperceptibly at first but effective over time, like water dripping on a rock. Nothing is indestructible except God.

Idleness is a form of neutralism. It is a condition of the mind which leads to spiritual decay, and a condition of the body which leads to self-indulgence. Idleness is a betrayal of the mind which rots a person on the inside as he bloats on the outside. He is not a fatted calf, but an inflated balloon waiting to be deflated through the loss of purpose or an attraction to evil. It squanders time by failing to transmit the power of the mind to the machinery of the body. It is a sloth that wallows in its own self-indulgence. It has no fulfillment in life because it has lost the meaning of life. It is expressed in many forms: an intangible theft, lack of consideration, pointless activity, lack of productivity, carelessness, and omissions are but a few. Idleness produces a self-focusing effect that wears down our discipline. Group idleness is an open invitation to disastrous behavior.

Wilding is a new term meaning to lose self-control and become aggressive and assaultive toward others for no cause other than to seek a thrill or for a good time. It usually occurs in a group which

turns into a mob. The end product can result in murder, mutilation, serious injury to person or property. Wilding in many cases turns ugly and assaults innocent people for no reason other than to intimidate for a feeling of superiority. It is a product of group idleness, having no purpose except to focus on self-centeredness and loss of respect for persons and property.

At times for some, it becomes a follow-the-leader mentality which is in essence to be a slave to the will of others, and to experience a loss of freedom, responsibility and self-respect. Wilding is a deliberate misuse of free will. Idleness is the end product of non-love, lack of self worth, lack of discipline, depression and brooding. This form of idleness is both an individual and a group activity, which is no activity because there is no purpose or direction to occupy the mind other than trouble-making. If parents can't keep children busy, then the devil will be pleased to fill the void.

A follow-the-leader mentality can lead to a current trend called trashing. Trashing simply means to destroy. In music, it refers to the concept of destroying musical instruments as a means of accentuating the wildness. It encourages violence and destruction of property by both the musician and the audience. It becomes the acceptance and approval of the destruction of property. What is abnormal becomes normal because everybody is doing it. It is the loss of peace and tranquility. Many say it is harmless. Destruction is not harmless. Some say that I have the right to dispose of my own property. Yes, but not at the expense of inciting others to violence. Trash dancing consists of bumping into your partner. This generally graduates into more abusive contact and eventually into mutual assaultiveness. The more we descend into the devil's workshop, the more we slide into a slothful spiritual decadence. The more we slide into idleness, the more we become idolaters, for sloth becomes an idol in our lives.

There are times when life seems hard to bear, full of woe, and idleness pretends to be an escape. We seek the mountaintop for peace but we cannot escape the valley where we live. So some

substitute idleness for a false peace. They have not formed loving friendships with which to share the burdens of life and they turn inward to brood on their misfortunes. They feel they can only depend on themselves for their salvation and in justifying themselves. This is self-worship. Mountaintops are wonderful but it is in the valley that we learn empathy. Our salvation is in the humility of admitting our human weakness that we share with others, and in striving to fulfill God's plan through loving action to all. To show forth God's goodness. Lord, forgive me, for sometimes I know not what I do and what I neglect to do! - Tic-tock, tic-tock, tic-tock, or opportunities are passing us by. Don't waste them in self-pity and idol worship. There is no way we can reclaim time and do life over again.