

Unstable Souls

2 Peter 2:1-14, "having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; enticing unstedfast souls; having a heart exercised in covetousness; children of cursing"

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Unstable Souls

Many are "unstable (unsteadfast ASV) souls" (2 Peter 2:14; 3:16)

Reuben.

▶ Genesis 49:3-4, "Reuben, thou art my first-born, my might, and the beginning of my strength; The pre-eminence of dignity, and the pre-eminence of power.

Boiling over as water, thou shalt not have the pre-eminence; Because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; Then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch." ASV

▶ Genesis 49:4, "**Uncontrolled as water**, you shall not have preeminence, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it - he went up to my couch." NASU

▶ Genesis 49:44, "**Unstable as water**, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch." KJV

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Characteristics of Unstable Souls

They are double-minded. James 1:6-8; 4:8

▶ Double-minded man: *dispuchos* literally refers to a "two-souled" person.

▶ "Wavering, uncertain, doubting; divided in interest" (Thayer).

▶ Examples:

- Israel. 1 Kings 18:21
- Multitude. Matthew 6:24
- Rich young ruler. Matthew 19:16ff
- Man who sought to eat at the table of the Lord and at the table of demons. 1 Corinthians 10:21
- The lukewarm person is a double-minded person. Revelation 3:15

▶ They are double-minded because they have two interests which are in conflict with each other; they are attempting to do the impossible - to serve both of them at the same time.

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Characteristics of Unstable Souls

They are double-minded. James 1:6-8; 4:8

▶ Stable man has a fixed persuasion that God is, and that He is the Hearer of prayer.

▶ Stable man must expect an answer to his supplications, and be ready to mark the time and mode of it.

▶ cf. Paul. Acts 27:25; 2 Timothy 1:12

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Characteristics of Unstable Souls

They are tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. Ephesians 4:14-15

▶ Congregations.

- Pergamum. Revelation 2:12ff
- Thyatira. Revelation 2:18ff

▶ Preachers.

- Demas. 2 Timothy 4:10

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Characteristics of Unstable Souls

Do not count the cost, do not persevere. Luke 14:25; cf. Luke 8:14

An unstable character is marked by these traits:

- (a) He acts out of passion.
- (b) He is strongly influenced by what others think about him.
- (c) He is constantly fluctuating.
- (d) He has a divided allegiance.

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Maturity Is Marked By Stability

A mature Christian is rooted and grounded in his commitment to Christ.

- ▶ He is rooted and grounded in love. Ephesians 3:17
- ▶ His love for God is first. Matthew 22:37

- ▶ The stable Christian does not have to decide with every confrontation whether or not he is going to serve Christ.
- ▶ He has made his commitment to Christ and will be faithful to it. *"As for me and my house ..."* Joshua 24:15

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Maturity Is Marked By Stability

A mature Christian is rooted and grounded in the faith.

- ▶ Learned the revelation of God; he can discern between good and evil. Hebrews 5:11-14; cf. Colossians 1:23; 2:6-7; 2 Thessalonians 2:7
- ▶ His knowledge of God's word enables him to recognize false doctrine. 2 John 9-11
- ▶ He stands opposed to those who bring it. Romans 16:17-18
- ▶ When false teachers come, the mature Christian can be counted on to stand for the truth - for he is rooted and grounded in the faith.

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Maturity Is Marked By Stability

The mature Christian perseveres through the temptations and trials of life.

- ▶ Like Job and the prophets endured affliction with faith in God. James 5:7-11

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Conclusion:

A stable person is one on whom you can rely.

- ▶ He will be faithful in attendance.
- ▶ He is stable in doctrine.

False prophets ...

"having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; enticing unstedfast souls; having a heart exercised in covetousness; children of cursing" 2 Peter 2:14

"beloved, knowing (these things) beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own stedfastness. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him (be) the glory both now and for ever. Amen."

2 Peter 3:15-18

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