

Two questions:

- Why does it happen?
- How can I prevent it?

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Psalms 51:10–12 (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1–3 (NIV)

THREE COUNTER CULTURAL ATTITUDES THAT WILL HELP COUNTER THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF SIN

1. BE COMPLETELY HUMBLE AND GENTLE

Be completely humble and gentle...

Ephesians 4:2a (NIV)

Root of humility is humus

The Lord mocks the mockers but is gracious to the humble.

Proverbs 3:34 (NLT)

For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Matthew 23:12 (NIV)

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

Luke 1:52 (NIV)

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

James 4:6 (NIV)

Steps to humility (St. Benedict: Monastic Rules)

- Look for opportunities to follow rather than lead
- Confess your sins to another person

2. REFUSE TO CANCEL OTHER PEOPLE

...be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2b (NIV)

Greek word for “bearing with” - **aneximai** - “put up with”

What should we be willing to put up with?

- Ideosyncrosies
- Weaknesses
- Cultural and political differences

3. KEEP THE FOCUS IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)