

Seven Warning Signs Of Cancer

In 1947, the American Cancer Society began its public education campaign with the seven warning signs and symptoms of cancer. These warning signs are useful because in the U.S., men have a slightly less than a 1 in 2 life-time risk of developing cancer; for women, the risk is a little more than 1 in 3. They can readily be adapted to test for "spiritual cancer;" however, which has a high risk factor among Christians as well.

1. An unusual preoccupation with self; over-emphasis in conversation about "I, me, we, us, mine or ours." The gospel compels us to think of others above ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4). One of the most miserable people you will meet is the one who thinks only of himself.
2. A lump or thickening in the wallet or bank account without regard for the great need of others, and failure to support the Lord's church in its labor of evangelism. The Lord's work requires funds and the Lord loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
3. A sore feeling of anger, resentment or bitterness that persists and does not heal. If one is faithful, there is no need for the aforementioned emotions, for these are to be put away (Ephesians 4:31).
4. A change in attendance or prayer at worship, from regular to irregular. We are "*not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together*" (Hebrews 10:25). When someone begins to falter in worship attendance, something is wrong.
5. A feeling of uneasiness when matters relating to God, Christ and the church are mentioned. Someone who truly loves the Lord should be more than willing to discuss these topics, for their lives will be beyond reproach.
6. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing Christian doctrine or references to commitment, sharing the gospel or faithful stewardship. How can one in this position "*hold forth the word of life*" (Philippians 2:16)?
7. A change in size, color or complexion when asked, "Are you active, faithful and participating where you are a member?" If you are embarrassed to be asked about your service to the Lord, you should be making some changes!

If you are alarmed by any of these warning signs, then you need a consultation with the Great Physician. The apostle John wrote, "*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth*" (3 John 2). Thankfully, many physical cancers can be remedied now. Even more hopeful, all "spiritual cancer" can be cured with a good, steadfast desire to serve God!

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