

GENDER SEXUALITY & THE CHURCH

Session 1 – Men and Lies

INTRODUCTION

- I Thessalonians 5:14; 4:3-5
- All sinful lusts *lie* (Eph. 4:22; Rom. 7:11; Heb. 3:13; 11:25)
- Eugene Peterson: “Every temptation that comes to me is packaged as a good.”

10 LIES TO REMEMBER WHEN TEMPTED


- A. Lie of Consequences
- B. Lie of Control
- C. Lie of Impact
- D. Lie of Invisibility
- E. Lie of Minimalizing

10 LIES TO REMEMBER WHEN TEMPTED

- F. Lie of Pie
- G. Lie of Relief
- H. Lie of Worship
- I. Lie of Vacuum
- J. Lie of Identity


Recommended Resources

- *Sexual Detox* (Tim Challies)
- *Building a Pure Life* (Dave Coats)
- *Finally Free* (Heath Lambert)
- *Pornography: Fighting for Purity* (Deepak Reju)
- *Men Counseling Men* (John Street and TMC Counseling Faculty)



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Session 2 - Private Sin Habits

A. PRECIPITATING FACTORS

1. Fatigue
2. Pressure
3. Bitterness
4. Calm Times

B. GENERAL NATURE

1. They are enjoyable.
2. They are private.
3. They are addictive.
4. They are common.
5. They are substitutionary.

C. AFTEREFFECTS

1. These habits deliver guilt.
2. These habits deliver subjectivity.
3. These habits deliver salvation doubts.

D. SCRIPTURAL VERDICT—MASTURBATION

1. This is not an option prescribed by God.
2. Lustful thoughts invariably accompany this habit.
3. The habit runs towards lust.
4. When this habit is characteristic of one's life, his life is mastered by lustful passion instead of honor and sanctification.

D. SCRIPTURAL VERDICT—OVEREATING

1. Scripture clearly warns against gluttony.
2. This habit amounts to serving your stomach/appetite as a god.

D. SCRIPTURAL VERDICT—PORNOGRAPHY

1. Christ calls this kind of thinking sin, because it amounts to committing sexual sin in the heart.
2. Job and David made covenants with their eyes not to gaze at such things.
3. Paul clearly admonishes believers to put off the old man characteristic of sensuality.
4. Solomon strongly exhorts his son to resist falling for the beauty of sensuous women.

D. SCRIPTURAL VERDICT—DRUNKENNESS

1. Drunkenness is prohibited by example.
2. Drunkenness is prohibited by command.
3. Timothy's example
4. Priest's example

D. SCRIPTURAL VERDICT—GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The Christian is to deny himself on a daily basis.
2. The Christian is never to allow himself to come under the control of such influences.
3. The Christian is not to do anything that paves the road to further sin.
4. The Christian is to glorify God both publicly and privately.
5. The Christian is to keep his body in submission, not authority.
6. The Christian is to properly care for his body because it is no longer his.

E. TRANSFORMATION POSSIBILITY


- I Corinthians 10:13
- Ephesians 4:22-24 (Repent...Renew...Replace)

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

1. Constantly pray yourself through each day.
2. View each temptation as an opportunity.
3. Enlist accountability.
4. Practice radical amputation.


RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- *Changed Into His Image* (Jim Berg)
- *A Theology of Biblical Counseling* (Heath Lambert)
- *How to Break a Stubborn Habit* (Erwin Lutzer)
- *The Dynamic Heart* (Jeremy Pierre)
- *The Exemplary Husband* (Stuart Scott)
- *Men Counseling Men* (John Street and the TMS Counseling Faculty)



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Session 3 – The Quiet Sufferer

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHT

- When men in marriages struggle against the intense fleshly gravity of moral failures, not only must they embark on the strenuous journey of progressive sanctification, but they must also grasp what they have brought upon their wives.
- A husband's carnage is not restricted to the island of his own existence; it deeply impacts his wife.
- The wise, repentant husband will be helped in his growth as he takes a close, sobering look at the journey that he has forced on his wife—*the quiet sufferer*.

A. HOW SHE MUST SEE *GOD*

1. Your husband is not your ultimate safe place; God alone is.
2. God has not betrayed you. He cannot.
3. He specializes in rescuing the vulnerable as well as the vile.
4. His proximity to you and concern for you is closer than any spouse, both *after* and even *before* the fall.

B. HOW SHE MUST SEE *HERSELF*

I. You must expose the lies....

- “I am not pretty.”
- “I am not desired.”
- “I am not satisfying.”
- “I am not whole.”
- “I am not helpable.”

B. HOW SHE MUST SEE *HERSELF*

2. You must embrace the truth consistent with the gospel....

- Every believer, including you, feels the incessant gravity of sin.
- The Spirit's work in you allows you to approach others' sin with gentleness.
- Every time we have the opportunity to approach another's sin brings with it the mercy of personal inventory too.
- Progressive sanctification is just that—*progressive*.
- Whatever were the circumstances leading to the exposure of the sin, the Father's good hand of Providence was clearly at work.

C. HOW SHE MUST SEE *HIM*

1. Note how his sin came to light.
2. Note your role from the Creator.
3. Note the bigger picture of his sin.
4. Porn is a symptom of a bigger problem.
5. Porn is his struggle, not his identity.
6. He can change.

D. HOW SHE MUST SEE *MARRIAGE*

1. Pleasure of Intimate Companionship
2. Promotion of Personal Purity
3. Preservation of Godly Offspring
4. Picture of Christ's Union

E. HOW SHE MUST SEE *FORGIVENESS*


1. You must master Matthew 18.
2. You must always tether the topic of forgiveness to the gospel.
3. Forgiveness is a transaction involving three promises.
4. “Forgetting is passive; not remembering is active.” (Adams)
5. While forgiveness is a transaction, trust must be rebuilt over time.

F. HOW SHE MUST SEE THE *CHURCH*

1. The resurrected Christ has gifted your local church with equipping leaders and equipped saints.
2. Your church's expression of love has a "volume" control.
3. Your ministry as a couple has amazing days in front of it in your local church.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- *Unpacking Forgiveness* (Chris Brauns)
- *When Sinners Say, “I Do”* (Dave Harvey)
- *Love that Lasts* (Gary and Betsy Ricucci)
- *Help! I Can’t Forgive* (Jim Newcomer)
- *Help! My Spouse Committed Adultery* (Winston Smith)



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