

Sexual Integrity for Men - Fall 2009 Session 2 – Class Notes

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Tonight - We're going to take a look at background factors, idols in our lives, the addictive process and legalism, as well as starting to learn how the grace of God changes everything for us.

How did I get here?

"Research has found that sex addicts often come from dysfunctional families and are more likely than non-sex addicts to have been abused. One study found that 82 percent of sex addicts reported being sexually abused as children. Sex addicts often describe their parents as rigid, distant and uncaring. These families, including the addicts themselves, are more likely to be substance abusers. One study found that 80 percent of recovering sex addicts report some type of addiction in their families of origin."

"We find that there is no way to predict who will have a problem with cybersex. Those who do come from a broad range of ethnic, social, and economic backgrounds. They can be people who've had trouble with sex before and people for whom it's never been a problem. They may be people with healthy or unhealthy coping responses. This is one of the unique aspects of cybersex. In other sexual problems, it's possible to detect patterns or common points – such as childhood sexual or emotional abuse or a familial history of addictive disorders, for example – among the people who are struggling. Not so with cybersex." Patrick Carnes - In the Shadows of the Net

"Most of us have a part of our sexuality that lies unacknowledged, unexplored, and without a voice, and the Internet offers a way to explore that sexuality." (Carnes, p.60)

A Worship Disorder

- Idolatry - replacing God for something or someone else as the object of our worship
- Exodus 20:4
- taking a good thing, and make it an ultimate thing

"The human heart is a factory of idols...Everyone of us is, from his mother's womb, expert in inventing idols." "The evil in our desire typically does not lie in what we want, but that we want it too much." John Calvin

"Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, 'Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.' From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, 'Save me; you are my god.' They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, 'Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?' He feeds on ashes, a deluded

heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?" (Isaiah 44:9-20)

The addictive process

- Preoccupation
- Ritualization
- Sexual Compulsivity
- Shame and Despair

- Vows
- Entitlement
- Blame-Shifting

The problem with moralism: Basic assumption - we can save ourselves. We think that we need to try harder. Our problem is **not** that we are not trying hard enough... it's that we think trying is going to work.

It's not that moralism teaches us that we are bad...it's that it teaches us that we are not that bad

Understanding our depravity

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." (Isaiah 6:1-5)

"The moment you begin to have faith, you learn that all things in you are altogether blameworthy, sinful, and damnable... therefore true faith in Christ is a treasure beyond comparison which brings with it complete salvation and saves man from every evil!" - Martin Luther

"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time." (Genesis 6:5)

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one." (Psalm 14:1-3)

"Before you can [know you are at peace with God], you must not only be troubled for your sins of your life, but also for the sins of your best duties and performances.... Before you can be at peace with God, there must be a deep

conviction before you can be brought out of your self- righteousness; it is the last idol taken out of our heart. The pride of our heart will not let us submit to the righteousness of Jesus Christ. But if you never felt that you had no righteousness of your own, if you never felt the deficiency of your own righteousness you cannot come to Jesus Christ."

George Whitefield, The Method of Grace

Psalm 25 – a Psalm of trust and repentance

The all-sufficiency of the grace, love, and power of God

2 Pet 1:3-9

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

How are we Blinded?

"The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing. She sits at the door of her house; she takes a seat on the highest places of the town, calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" And to him who lacks sense she says, "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant." But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol." (Proverbs 9:13-18)

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." (Proverbs 14:12) "The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving." (Proverbs 14:8) "Crush a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his folly will not depart from him." (Proverbs 27:22) "Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly." (Proverbs 26:11)