

SI for Women

Week 4

“Never forget that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy and normal and satisfying form, we are, in a sense, on the Enemy's ground. I know we have won many a soul through pleasure. All the same, it is His invention, not ours. He made the pleasures: all our research so far has not enabled us to produce one. All we can do is to encourage the humans to take the pleasures which our Enemy has produced, at times, or in ways, or in degrees, which He has forbidden. Hence we always try to work away from the natural condition of any pleasure to that in which it is least natural, least redolent of its Maker, and least pleasurable. An ever increasing craving for an ever diminishing pleasure is the formula.”

“The Screwtape Letters” - C.S. Lewis

The Counterfeit

- Satan's system (Romans 1)
 - *Weapon used to distract us from the real thing! It is a lure, like for fish. Trying to get us to bite. But the end is death. Counterfeit.*
 - *Even if we don't find ourselves in as depraved of a state as some in this area, we are all gazing longingly at that lure, and where we end up is rarely anywhere near where we started. We are capable of the very worst of this system if our mind is not transformed in this area!*
 - *The Goal: To create addictions, fragment individuals and to alienate relationships. To keep people far from God's design and lead them to their deaths. (In some cases very literally)*

- What is at risk?

EVERYTHING! If Satan gets us in this area, he doesn't have to get us anywhere else. The Sexual Sin and the Bible handout covers what God has to say about the counterfeit and what it does to us. But we are going to take a deep look into the effects of the counterfeit so we know what we are getting into and associating ourselves with when we buy into his system. This is not meant to make us feel as if God's grace does not exist for us when we find ourselves caught up in this system. But we need to look at this thing in its true, depraved form. In the world it masquerades as something awesome...time to take off the mask! We need to see exactly where this thinking is leading us. It is not beyond any of us to feel perfectly comfortable with any of these things we are about to cover if we allow ourselves to go down the path of Rom. 1!

The Effects *(lots of overlap)*

- **Physical Only** – *animals, led by instinct. Lead us to whatever sexual experiences can bring us physical pleasure. Anywhere from promiscuity to sex with animals or inanimate objects. Means we can justify any sexual experience! Human trafficking is ok in this system. Prostitution is a legit business. Addictions are the name of the game. From this view the only way a person can get hurt in this system is if they catch a disease or incur injury from whatever experience they had. And they do Wrong!*
- **Youth and Beauty** – *eating disorders, addictions, death! Serious body image issues. Slavery to our looks. Obsession. Priorities all out of whack, esp. regarding other women. Competition, comparison, defeat. Surgeries, anti-aging treatments, do I even need to continue? We know this all too well, but instead of fighting it, standing up to it, we cave and go along with it because the cost of the fight is too great for us! We might lose the next competition!*
- **Forbidden** – *(Stolen water is sweet) What is wrong to do? Heavy petting while dating? Oral sex while dating? Dry sex while dating? Sex outside of marriage? How about masturbating instead of having sex with your husband? Reading graphic novels? Watching pornography? What about sex with someone else's spouse/boyfriend? What about sex with women? Ok, what about a family member? A child? What about forcing someone to have sex with you when they don't want to? What about buying prostitute or escort services? What about becoming a prostitute or working in the porn industry, movies/stripping/etc? What about buying a child for sexual services? We think we are on a safe path of innocent "naughtiness" but we are headed towards death! How do you know where you will stop on this slide! It is not a ladder, you do not have to climb or work hard to get to the next rung! It is a slide and once you lose track of the top of the slide it is almost impossible to climb back up! Praise God for His grace and long reaching arms! There is a reason why things are forbidden.*
- **Sneaky** – *(Bread eaten in secret is pleasant) This is where we find ways to cover up and hide the things that we do. The little white lie that turns into a disaster waiting to happen. And what is the point of telling anyone the truth, it will just hurt them? If I keep it secret no one is hurt right? (Fantasies and trouble with reality fit here) This is true loneliness! No one really knows you, you never experience true intimacy, grace, love, acceptance from others because you know they don't know the "real" you. Your relationship with God is also taking a hit. How close to God can you be if you cut him out of the most intimate area of your life? This is a rift with God that if left unchecked will bring about the downfall of your walk!*
- **Passions that overwhelm** – *First of all, who knows what you'll do if you let your hormones/emotions control your decisions about sex. Remember these are the same hormones that make us feel terrible right before/during our periods. ☺ Seriously though, not having control of your passions (remember, passions are not*

bad!) leads to the possibility of you doing those things that are the little birds that land on your head. You won't have the discipline to swat them away. Personal example with Pat. Lucky I did not marry him! More simple – the frequency problem becomes a very serious problem in marriage. It is hurtful and exposes our self-centeredness in sex.

- *Trying to gain something – emptiness of never getting what you are trying to gain from the physical intimacy! Plus you will do things you never imagined you would do just to try to get what you want (personal example). This is how addictions really get rolling. You will find yourself devaluing yourself and different acts, vices and people to get what you want which is, like the forbidden example, a slide not a ladder!*
- **NEVER EXPERIENCE TRUE SEXUAL SATISFACTION!**

You can see how any one of these things could lead not only to spiritual death but also to actual death. Whether by disease or suicide.

Satan must be exposed here. Think about the Lewis quote. This is a counterfeit masquerading as something awesome! We need to have the negative vision for ourselves as well, and know where we would be headed. And we need to become advocates for those who are suffering at the hands of this system! Especially those who can't speak for themselves! We need to tear down these pillars of lies that have built up in our minds and allow God to do His transforming work to replace them with the truth. Banquet in the Grave indeed!

Discussion Groups

- What impact has the counterfeit had in your life?
- How was I impacted by last week's HMWK?
- Pray for everyone!

HMWK

- Cost and Benefit analysis
- Women's Testimonies
- *Beyond the Soiled Curtain* reading
- Spiritual Warfare!
- ADD Romans 1!