Passions of the Heart (Street)

Introduction

1. Good example, an animal trapped somewhere.
2. "The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin." (Pr. 5:22)
3. Will you try to cover it up and hide it or deal with it by walking in the light (1Jn. 1:6-7).
4. When animals are trapped, even when people try to help them, they get vicious and angry. People trapped in sexual sin are like this too. Don't do this. God warns those who return good for evil (Pr. 17:13)
5. King David tried to hide his sin and only heaped more sins in his life (2Sm. 11:1-21). Finally, he stopped trying to hide his sin. He realized what God wanted most was a broken heart. He prayed Ps. 51:14-17.
6. First section of the book: Biblical perspective of the heart's complexities
7. Second section: Eight critical predispositions of the heart that lead to sexual bondage.
8. Third section: How to address these biblically.

1. **Preparing the Heart for Change (2Sm. 11-12**) "The Disaster of Trusting the Heart"**
    1. Popular songs that tell us to trust our heart
    2. Intro
        1. Heart is very complex. He can know it?
            1. "Who can say my heart is clean…?" (Pr. 20:9)
            2. "The purposes in a man's heart is like deep water" (Pr. 20:5)
            3. The heart is dishonest, calculating and untrustworthy (Pr. 6:12-14)
        2. Key: heart's chief characteristic is that it is self-deceiving.
            1. Thinks it is better than it really is.
            2. Believes it is innocent; presumes goodness.
            3. Heart is blind because of original sin.
            4. Heart loves to hide wicked motives because it doesn't want guilt. It doesn't want change.
        3. World says: "Trust your heart."
    3. Can you trust your heart?
        1. Scripture
            1. "All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit" (pr. 16:2).
            2. "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart" (Pr. 21:2)
            3. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jr. 17:9).
        2. We are good at tricking ourselves, though we are sinning sexually, we think of all the good things we do.
        3. What does God see when he looks into your heart? (Mt. 5:27-28)
        4. We naturally judge ourselves favorably. Think we are better than we really are.
        5. Paul didn't trust his own heart (1Co. 4:4).
        6. "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away fro the living God" (Hb. 3:12).
        7. Example: you are caught in a terrible sin and we immediately point so someone who's done worse than us. He really thinks in his own mind he is good.
    4. God's school of heart-knowledge
        1. How well do you know your heart?
        2. The heart is…
            1. Deep, hidden, clever (Pr. 20:5)
            2. Dishonest, calculating and untrustworthy (Pr. 20:9)
            3. Self-favoring (Pr. 21:2)
            4. Deceitful (Jer. 49:16; Obad. 3)
            5. Seen by God (1Sm. 16:7)
        3. We often see our heart for what it really is through suffering
            1. Dt. 8:2 – And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, <u>testing you to know what was in your heart</u>, whether you would keep his commandments or not.
            2. Suffering helps *us* to see what is in our hearts. It forces us to take an honest examination of our spiritual walk. God already knows what is in our hearts (Ps. 94:11; 139:4).

3. Pr. 17:3 - Gold and silver are tested by fire, and a person's heart is tested by the Lord. (TEV)

5. Heart Lessons from King David
    1. Real change only happens when our heart is crushed and sorrowful over our sin. If we are more concerned about the *consequences* of our sin, true change hasn't happened.
    2. After David's secret sin with Bathsheba was revealed, he learned why this was the best thing that could happen to him.
        1. *Ps. 51:6 – You delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.*
    3. What David wanted most was not the terrible consequences removed. He wanted to be right with God (Ps. 51:10).
    4. David knew the heart was so crafty, he wondered if it was possible to every know it
        1. *Ps. 19:12 - Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.*
        2. Hidden sins are difficult to locate in our hearts. Only God can reveal them when we carefully study God's Word (Ps. 19:7-11).
    5. David's life *before* his sexual sin with Bathsheba.
        1. David wins the civil war and becomes king (2Sm. 1-5).
        2. David becomes very popular.
        3. David returns ark to Jerusalem (Sm. 5-7).
        4. Davidic covenant (2Sm. 7:8-17).
        5. David defeats many different armies (2Sm. 8-10).
        6. David takes a holiday (2Sm. 11:1)
    6. David's life *after* his sexual sin with Bathsheba.
        1. David's infant son dies (2Sm. 12).
        2. David's son Absalom kills David's eldest son Amnon for raping David's daughter Tamar.
        3. David's son Absalom goes to war against his father to steal the throne.
        4. David runs for his life as his son Absalom tries to kill him.
        5. David's son Absalom is killed.
        6. David was forced to put down a blood revolt by Sheba, who said: "We have no part in David."
        7. David is exalted in battle against the Philistines. He doesn't defeat them like he did with Goliath but must be rescued (2S. 21:15-22).
    7. By the end of 2 Samuel, David is a humbled and broken man. What was the difference between the first and second halves of 2 Samuel? It was David's sin with Bathsheba.
    8. A growing list of sins:
        1. David took many wives and concubines (2Sm. 5:13), though God forbid this (Dt. 17:17).
        2. David fathers six sons by six wives (2Sm. 3:1-4)
        3. David sends out his army to fight while he stays home and relaxes (11:1).
        4. David lusts after Bathsheba.
        5. David fornicates with Bathsheba. She becomes pregnant.
        6. David tries to cover his sin by calling for her husband Uriah.
            1. David brought back Uriah from war so he'd sleep with his wife and think her son with David was really his own.
            2. Uriah refused to enjoy comfort with his wife while his friends were fighting.
            3. Uriah was a Hittite (a Gentile convert to Judaism). He was a foreigner more noble than the Jewish king.
            4. After his first plan failed, David put Uriah on the front line of battle to be killed. David was now a murderer. His plan succeeded. He succeeded (2Sm. 11:17).

6. Catastrophe of trusting your own heart
    1. Many men and women have lost everything like David. Why? They thought they were strong Christians and trusted their hearts. For years they satisfied sexual fantasies that remained hidden. Finally they acted on them and were ruined.
    2. "The mind is like a garden; whatever you permit to grow and cultivate will eventually produce behavioral fruit (Gal. 6:7)." John Street (p. 13).
    3. Even the apostle Paul did not trust his own heart. "For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me (2Co. 4:4).
    4. Paul didn't know of any sin in his life, but he also realized that he could be blinded to some sin in his heat that only God and others could see. He *distrusted* his heart because it so easily leans toward self-righteousness (Gn. 8:21; Pr. 16:5).

7. Heart Lessons from Uzzah (2Sm. 6)
    1. Righteous intentions do not excuse breaking God's laws
    2. God's requirements for carrying the ark were clear. The sons of Kohath were to carry it (Num. 3:30-31; 4:15). Instead, Israel used oxen to pull the ark on a new cart.
    3. Also, anyone who touched the ark was under the death penalty (Nm. 4:15; 19-20).
    4. Uzzah though his hand was more holy than the dirt. He thought he was holier than he really was.
    5. Don't be a fool and think you are better than you really are, like Uzzah.
8. The heart needs forgiveness and change
    1. When God forgives sinners, this is *judicial forgiveness.* After, he still needs forgiveness for specific sins. This is *parental forgiveness.*
    2. When Christians sins, there is temporal discipline (Pr. 13:15, 21; Mt. 6:12; Hb. 12:5-11). We're justified but we still battle sin on earth.
    3. Check this: "For by a single offering he has perfected for all time [perfect, active tense] those who are being sanctified [present, passive tense]" (Hb. 10:14). The former is judicial sanctification. Salvation. All sins past, present, and future paid and atoned for by Christ. The latter is in the present. After salvation, continues to be sanctified. Still sin.
9. True nature of the heart
    1. What if someone still harbors known evil desires in the heart but claims to be a Christian? He has good reason to doubt his salvation (2Cor. 13:5). True Christian will be miserable under God's chastening. Unbelievers just get comfortable in sin. Unbeliever will continue in sexual desires he craves.
    2. Unbelievers will fight the sin and mourn over it, even if it is difficult to leave it. He wants a pure heart (Mt. 5:8). God will give the grace, but it only comes through brokenness. "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Jms. 4:6).
10. The Heart's repentance: godly sorrow or worldly sorrow?
    1. Some people feel bad about being caught in a sexual affair or pornography.
    2. There is a big difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow.
        1. "Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death" (2Cor. 7:10). True believes repent.
    3. Examples of worldly sorrow
        1. Genesis 4 (Cain kills Abel)
        2. Esau sorrowing over selling birthright (Gn. 27:34)
        3. King Ahab, he publically tore his clothes over idolatry but didn't really repent because he continued to consult false prophets (1Kngs 21:27; 22:6).
        4. Judas was full of remorse. "I have sinned" (Mt. 27:4). He then hung himself.
        5. True repentance? "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise" (Ps. 51:17).
11. Evidences of true repentance
    1. Pursuit of purity
        1. There will be eagerness for righteousness. "For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment" (2Cor. 7:11).
        2. Repentant heart is active. Seeks to remove itself from any association with previous sins.
    2. Presence of righteous indignation
        1. Anger! "I can't believe I have been doing this!"
    3. Pursuit of a holy fear
        1. Fear of repeating the sin due to weakness of the flesh. Also, a fear of God. Anyone who loves God will fear displeasing him. If you love, you'll keep commandments (Jn. 14:15).
    4. Palpability of a deep yearning
    5. Propensity for zeal
        1. Hate anything bringing reproach to God (Ps. 139:21-22).
    6. Place for punishment
        1. Not afraid of ramifications. Willing to pay consequences.
        2. Careful of self-imposed punishment and self pity (Hb. 10:10-12).
    7. Heart of the matter
    8. Don't trust your heart. Only true guide is Scripture. Heart will lie to you (Pr. 28:26)
    9. Must understand heart's main motivation (Ecc. 7:20).
    10. Desires promise your heart pleasure, but it will only bring death (Pr. 16:25).

2. **Heart Idolatry and Sexuality**
    1. Intro
        1. We're not forgiven of our sins so we can continue in them. "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life *and godliness.* (2Pt. 1:3).
        2. "God has not called us to impurity, but in holiness" (1Th. 4:7).
    2. How your heart operates
        1. Human hearts demonstates willful sinfulness and rebellion toward God (Rm. 1:18-23).
        2. Instead of worshiping God, we crave self-gratification and self-satisfaction.
        3. Heart is primary 'control center' of life. Many think incorrectly here. Think heart is seat of romance and emotion. Really, it is dwelling place of thought life.
            1. "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Gn. 6:5). (tense of "saw" shows God saw this was constant evil).
            2. "The purpose in a man's heat is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out." (Pr. 20:5).
            3. The *heart* of man is the main problem (Mk. 7:20-21).
            4. Lust is adultery in the heart (Mt. 5:28)
        4. Heart involves lusts, cravings, plans and thoughts. From these, your heart determines your behavior.
        5. Heart directs everything you do. "Keep your heart will all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life" (Pr. 4:23). Really, keep your "thought life". Thought life reveals what you worship (Mt. 22:37-40).
        6. Your passions will consume your thinking, determine your plans, form your intentions, master your cravings and focus your purpose.
        7. Pic/Figure 2.1 helpful
    3. Discovering your own heart idols
        1. <u>"When your heart's chief longings and worship are on anything other than the God of glory, this is idolatry." (p. 33).</u>
        2. Idols are just stone objects. Idols consist of anything ruling your heart.
        3. <u>The desire for drink, food, entertainment, and sex can become idolatrous craving that rule the heart.</u>
            1. Paul warned Corinthians about Israel's idolatry. They worshiped God with a golden calf (Ex. 32:7-8).
            2. Their idolatry was also on eating, drinking, and playing (1Cor. 10:6-7).
            3. Their idolatry was also sexual immorality (1Cor. 10:8).
            4. "When self-gratifying pleasure dominates the heart, it ahs become an idolatrous rule desire. You do not have to worship a physical idol to be an idolater." (34)
        4. These cravings are dangerous because they are so normal in life. Must brutally and honestly search your own heart
            1. "O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart (Ps. 15:1-2).
    4. You can find idols in your heart by asking the following questions. True picture of self will show idols in your heart
        1. <u>What wants and desires in your heart are opposed to God's wants and desires?</u>
            1. Any desire, no matter how innocent, contrary to Scripture is potentially an idol (1Kings 8:59-61). It could reign in your heart.
            2. Idols captivate and enslave. They control your thought life. Dominate your time and energy.
            3. If you allow this to go on and not repent, you'll be in complete rebellion against God.
            4. Sexual sins easily become idolatrous.
                1. You want a relationship with ungodly person. You then repent. Not an idol.
                2. But if you continue in it, and will not repent, it becomes idolatrous. Controls life.
        2. <u>What does God want and desire that agrees with your wants and desires, but you want it so much you are willing to be ungodly if you do not acquire it?</u>
            1. Example: marriage (good thing). But then it becomes all consuming. Idol. Fear, anger and cynicism common temptation. "What if I don't get married." Often, this person becomes angry at other sex.

2. Example: lots of kids. Scripture says this is great. But in time God doesn't give them to you. You blame God. You are easily offended that other parents have children and you do not. You start to minimize important of kids.
3. Example: thriving church. Wonderful. But in time your small church where you've been faithful make you angry. You are jealous of larger churches. You imply they must be doing something incorrectly. A good thing has become an idol.

3. What are the controlling expectations that dominate your heart with evil thoughts, ungodly words, and sinful actions when they are unrealized?
    1. Expectations can grow into mature idols.
    2. Some expectations are bad from the start: malice (hoping for downfall of another).
    3. Some expectations are good initially but turn ungodly:
        1. "I expect my romantic evening spent alone with my wife to be wonderful." Controls his thoughts.
        2. Gets home, house is dirty, no dinner, kids sick. He's angry and sarcastic.
4. What do you consider your 'rights' to be, and how do you react in ungodly ways when denied?
    1. We live in a day of "rights." Really, most of them are idols. Examples:
        1. Right to be cared for
        2. Right to be heard and respected
        3. Right to have an attractive spouse
        4. Right to have a good job
        5. Right to be sexually satisfied
    2. Outside of Christ we have no rights (Gal. 6:3)
    3. Anything we have is by the mercy of God. Our "rights" are really idols of the heart
5. What specific standards have you set for your life that are not God's standards but have led you to sinful thoughts and practices?
    1. We often make self-determined standards and goals not according to Scripture
        1. Example: "I want to be a millionaire by 40." We don't get it and are depressed. This has become an idol. Star athlete, executive, big family or whatever.
        2. Example: We dream of a kind of spouse we're going to marry. Perfect. Impossible standard. Now in marriage and dissatisfied. Why? False standard fed by imagination through movies, books etc.
6. What mind-set have you adopted that is opposed to God's truth and leads you to sinful thoughts, plans and intentions?
    1. Example: Husband: "sex in marriage is for my pleasure alone."
    2. But Scripture says: "The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband" (1Co. 7:3). He has a sexual debt to his wife. Goal is not self-gratification. Many conflict in marriage stem from this.
    3. Main goal is spousal-gratification, not self. Not wrong to enjoy intimacy in marriage (Pr. 5:19; Eccl. 9:9). But this is secondary to needs of spouse.

5. Heart idolatry and sensual passions
    1. A question: "Is it possible for me to appreciate the beauty of the female form without committing a sin?" Tricky question, perhaps ruse to cover lust.
    2. Some hard questions:
        1. When does a thought become sinful? Are some thoughts innately sinful? Possible to think in holy way about sex?
    3. Goal of all believers: love God with all heart soul and mind (Mt. 22:37; Mt. 5:8)
    4. Thinking about concept of sin not necessary sinful. Jesus talked about sex.
    5. Thoughts of sex become sinful when they come from demanding heart of covetousness. Sexual pleasure is goal of the heart.
    6. Sexual lust is intense and won't be denied. "Don't covet your neighbor's wife" (Ex. 20:17; Pr. 6:25). Woman would lift veil and expose eyes to attract attention. Thus, eyelashes.
    7. Desire in Greek can be reflexive (appreciation) or covetous (dynamic). Thus, Ex. 20:17 forbids such desire. Not just act. Love must come from whole heart (Dt. 6:5).
6. Sexual desire as slavery **Perhaps lecture called, "Can a Christian be sexually enslaved?" (w/points 6-8 below, + Owen on Temptation)**
    1. Lust is like slavery. Slaves have no choice. Temptation too great.
    2. Two kinds of slavery:
        1. Under complete domination, unsaved, fully surrendered. No desire to change. Happy in his porn, prostitution, adultery, homosexuality. It's natural. You can't fight nature (yes you can!). They have catered to idols for very long.

Determinative is not biology but spiritual condition. If they continue in this sin, they are not regenerate. Dog returns to vomit and pig to mud (2Pt. 2:22; Pr. 26:11). Why? Natures haven't changed. If they keep on returning, its because they haven't been changed on the inside. Personal effort only lasts so long. You're like a boomerang.

2. Unwilling slave and casualty of war between flesh and spirit. Believes enemy too strong. Not at home with enemy, though struggles. Lapses.

7. The difference between sexual temptation and slavery
    1. First is sexually enslaved. Second is sexually tempted. Factors to differentiate the two:
        1. A pattern of deceit and elaborate excuses
        2. Family and marriage problems
        3. Irresponsibility to duties
        4. Attitudinal extremes
        5. Unusual sex expectations of spouse
        6. Suggestive or pornographic entertainment
        7. On the attack ("good offense is better than a good defense.")
        8. Routine of secretive behavior
        9. Persistent defensiveness
        10. Spends les time at church or around Christian friends.
    2. The unbeliever can only trade idols. Cannot abolish them. Only regenerating power of Spirit can bring freedom.
    3. When craving exceed resitsnce, a person becomes a prisoner of war to appetites.
    4. Enslavement begins with simple stimuli and moves to more hard core.
    5. As slave surrenders to delights, satisfaction ahs deceasing returns. Satsifaction diminishes frequency increases to keep up pleasure. More quantity and quality to achieve satisfaction.
8. A sense of sexual captivity
    1. "The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin." (Pr. 5:22). Cords of weakness, loss of control and cravings. He's in bondage to corruption (Rm. 8:20-23).
    2. Now he has incessant cravings for more vile and dark sins. He needs to keep exhilaration. Just can't stop.
        1. Hope dies (despair is common; few outward signs, unlike drug addiction)
        2. Usefulness dies (self-gratification renders a person ineffectual; sin takes all of his time and energies; no time to be productive)
        3. Conscience dies (now they do unimaginable filth, unbelievers, though Corinthians were involved here, 1Cor. 5:1). No shame.
        4. Relationships die
        5. Time dies (lust demands a lot of time; drains energies of the brain; like drug addict, lust takes many waking hours planning fix).
        6. Resources die ("companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth", prv. 29:3). Sexual bondage takes much money to support.
        7. Godliness dies (Bible study and prayer have become formalities; church attendance is perfunctory. Failed so many times, think Bible doesn't work).
        8. Body dies (AIDS, part of consequences; abortion; many Christians think sexual desire is innocent, no matter the form or manner.

3. **Heart Idolatry and Sexual Enslavement** (Key Passage: Jms 1:15-17; Mt. 5:28-30)
    1. Intro
        1. If you want freedom from bondage, remember Scripture gives hope to those who fear him.
        2. World wants to convince you that you are a victim. Can't help yourself.
        3. Biological determinism (human behavior comes from genetic makeup, brain size, biochemical etc.) produces despair and hopelessness.
        4. People *can* be freed from sexual enslavement.
    2. The paradigm of sexual enslavement
        1. Some use sex as an escape from obligations, troubles and suffering (Pr. 31:1-7). Or they want to escape boredom.
        2. Some think sexual thrills is a right not to be denied. Not true:
            1. *Prov. 21:17, Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.*
            2. *1Tm. 5:6, she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives*
        3. Sexual slaves are not actually in bondage to sexual experience. Rather, your heart worships the experience. Idolatry. Idol worship: any practice that does not lead us to love God with hear, soul, mind an strength.

4. Question: how does thought of sex become sinful and enslaving? Can you see progression? Yes. Four stage paradigm in James 1:14-15:

3. Stage 1: certain depraved internal desires of the flesh are stirred by thought or experience
    1. James 1:14, "But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire." Blame is with inborn lust, not Satan or world. Blame is deep within. Man is responsible.
    2. Satan may provide occasion. But success of temptation is dependent on condition and receptivity of the heart.
    3. Too many people try to counsel by removing external conditions that bring lust rather than addressing the source. John Calvin: "Since the urge and pressure to do wrong come from within, it is useless for the sinner to seek to hid behind an excuse of outward provocation."
    4. Wrong methods:
        1. Removing all temptation from area
        2. Spiritual exorcism
    5. Real enemy isn't *Playboy,* Satan, movies. They just give the window to get to lust. Real enemy is depraved desire—lust. Windows and vehicles are enemies too! But they need a driver…the heart…to be effective.
    6. Focusing on the external is like using Crack filler for cracks in wall. This may hide it for a while, but then cracks appear in the other room and on the floor. Issue is the foundation.
    7. Wrong methods are like high-altitude bombing. Good method is like a Navy Seal. If you bomb from high above, the enemy will go deeper in the caves and reappear in another location. But a godly counselor is like a special soldier that uses God's word to strike the heart. He knows how the enemy tries to hide sin. The enemy becomes an expert at diversion and camouflage. You must be able to find the hidden areas of the heart.
    8. Lust becomes a close companion. You can't live without it.
4. Stage 2: lust conceives in a fertile heart when it acquires the consent of the will
    1. James 1:15a "then desire when it has conceived…" This is when sin is sown in the heart.
    2. World and Satan may stir the desires but it is not sin in the heart until the will has granted permission.
    3. Example: man accidently see woman with bikini on billboard. At this point, he knows it could become sinful because something has been stirred within. Glimpse not sinful until he willingly entertains enticements. When he focuses on her beauty and then takes sensual pleasure from that thought, sinful lust has conceived. He thinks on her form. First innocent look aroused desires. He could look away and forget it. But his will is being attacked by the promise that this will bring great pleasure, so he decides to lust. He focuses on her. His body grows in desire. It grows so fast he is amazed at its power.
    4. Scripture talks about this. David could have looked away from Bathsheba. He had wives to fulfill him. But sinful desires always wants more kinds of gratification.
    5. Satan has learned over thousands of years how to appeal to sinful desires of the heart.
    6. These desires deceive and lie to you.
    7. "Conceive" means sexual impregnation. Womb=sinful heart. Seed of lust can grow there.
        1. Some wombs are fertile; some wombs are barren. No impregnation possible.
        2. Some hearts are very fertile for sexual lust; others aren't.
        3. What makes some hearts more fertile for sexual lust than others?
        4. Why can two people experience same temptation, and in one it miscarries?
    8. When the will surrenders to first enticement of sin, craving begins in the heart. If this craving is not aborted by repentance, it will grow. As it grows, resistance lessens, struggle is intense. Great passion intensifies on the heart. No action at this point to satisfy desire, but sinful action is not far behind.
5. Stage 3: the lustfully impregnated heart eventually gives birth to visible deeds of sin
    1. James 1:15, "then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin". Now behavior comes after sexual sin birthed. Mind gives body permission to act.
    2. This doesn't mean internal lust isn't sin. It is. But now sin is *visible.* Baby not seen till after birth. Sexual sin not seen until outward acts show it.
    3. Lust always wants outward fulfillment through sinful acts. Womb can't contain internal sin anymore. You try because consequences bad but it must be born.
    4. At first you try to do the actions secretively. Then, in time, you don't care who knows.
    5. "Lust cannot remain in the heart forever; it will demand to be brought into the world." (67).
    6. Sexual enslavement is easier to hide than other sins like alcohol, drugs etc. because they have outward tell-tale signs: bloodshot eyes, wounds, fights, needle marks (PR. 23:29-35). But with sexual lust, many can interact w/others for a long time without anyone knowing. Sometimes affairs, prostitution etc. goes on for decades without anyone knowing.

7. Lustful sin needs to be born! Must be some external sinful action.
8. Sexual sin is a disgrace, so many try very hard to hide it. Hate transparency of the light:
    1. Job 24:15-17, The eye of the adulterer also waits for the twilight, saying, 'No eye will see me'; and he veils his face. **16** In the dark they dig through houses; by day they shut themselves up; they do not know the light. **17** For deep darkness is morning to all of them; for they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.
    2. *Pr. 7:8-9, Passing along the street near her corner, taking the road to her house* **9** *in the twilight, in the evening, at the time of night and darkness.*
9. Now you become more edgy and easily startled because you fear you'll be found out (Lv. 26:17; Pr. 28:1). Yet, you still take more and more risks.
10. You started with baby food but now sin demands more fulfillment. Fulfillment now demands public exposure. You still want no one to know but you're willing to take risk. Even legal risk, as stealing, prostitution and voyeurism is a crime. But you do it because sin promises the pleasure is worth it.
11. Now the slave of sex begins to find small group of people to participate with him. Maybe prostitute with one person or fornication with one person. But the child of sexual slavery still needs more and more. It is growing.
12. Perhaps expression is found in flashing people or exposing oneself while dressing.
13. Unrepentant sexual slavery is always growing. Now he's willing to molest, incest, rape, sex-murder, homosexuality—things he never dreamed he would do. He doesn't care now.
14. Focus for counseling should be purification, not penalties.
15. External behavior is always indicative of the heart's condition.
16. But our desires should be for God and thus bear fruit of righteousness.
17. Moving from one state to the other is determined by how much a person must do to hide their sin (e.g. private stimulation→fornication→rape/homosexuality→death)
18. As cravings increase and take hold in heart, guilt decreases. Sin is more open. Concern for godliness continues. Pride increases. Sexual sinners now become very confident in their hypocrisy. They are confident in their double life.

6. Stage 4: fully formed sin ends in death
    1. James 1:15, "And sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."
    2. Birth normally results in life; here, the birth of sin results in death. Like cancer. Evidence:
        1. Hopelessness
        2. Dead conscience
        3. Broken relationships
        4. Wasted time
        5. Sqandered resources
        6. Diseased body
        7. Ungodliness
    3. Death came to Uriah and then David's infant son because of David's sin (2Sm. 11).
    4. Lust is terrible because it steals your life. AIDS, murder etc (1Cor. 11:30; 1Jn. 5:16).
    5. Lust is never dormant. It "grows" ("fully grown, v. 15). Lust grows in proficiency.
    6. You can't play with lust, just satisfying it occasionally. Frequency grows and satisfaction decreases.
    7. Lust often overlap. You may lust for child sex, but also there will be lust for, perhaps, stealing or skipping school. Both give a thrill.
7. Applying Theology in Counseling Sexual Problems
    1. Some have misconception that fantasizing about potential sex partners isn't sin. This comes from misreading of James 1:14-15, apparently sin only after physical action.
    2. Example: a couple engages in heavy petting and caressing but no sexual intercourse. Some say not sinful. But Scripture teaches that the desire feeding fantasy is the source and cause of outward sin.
    3. Another misconception is that you can have sex with spouse while thinking of sex with another person.
    4. Others say oral sex ok before marriage, but not full sex. Sin is only full copulation. This is like Pharisees: obey the law outwardly (not committing the "act") relieves them of guilt, forgetting the inward sins.
8. Getting to the heart of lust
    1. Adulterer and lustful person have same heart. Only difference is the former has acted it out and given birth to the sin. Both are sin (Mt. 5:27-28). Simply looking at woman isn't sinful. It is looking for the purpose of lust.
    2. The way our righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees is that it is *inward!* The Pharisees made it doable by only the outward (Mt. 5:19-20).

3. Lust cannot conceive in a womb that is infertile. Pure hearts have not problem with seeing a beautiful woman.

4. **Heart Idolatry and Deep Passions** (2Sm. 11-12)
    1. Intro
        1. The brain allows you to do certain tasks that are habitual through muscle memory (e.g. tying your shoe). Habit by repeated practice.
    2. Sinful habits
        1. "They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable sin…they have hearts trained in greed" (2Pt. 2:14). That is, these false teachers had the habit of sexual sin.
        2. Don't believe lie of biological determinism. Brain chemicals can influence decisions; can't determine them. Greed makes you do the same sexual habits.
        3. A person cannot be a Christian if he continues to practice willful sin (1Jn. 1:5-10; 3:6-9). But it is true that Christians can be enslaved by a sinful habit.
            1. Paul struggled with conflict between flesh and spirit, doing things his spirit did not want to do (Rm. 7:14-25).
            2. Sin can have temporary controlling power over a believer, though it has absolute dominance over the unbeliever.
        4. Some biblical principles of repentance and replacement:
            1. Putting off and putting on (Eph. 4:20-24)
            2. Radical amputation (Mt. 5;29-30)
            3. Self-denial (Mt. 16:24-28)
            4. Repentance and change regarding idolatrous desire (1Cor. 10:6-8, 12-14)
    3. The heart context of habitual sexual sin
        1. Often, sexual sin is an expression of anger. A way to deal with disagreement situations.
    4. Biblical insight into idolatrous desires
    5. Idolatry in the life of King David
        1. David didn't just "fall" into sin. Other idolatrous desires were already there.
        2. That is, his heart was a fertile womb for the seed of lust to plant and grow.
        3. He had taken many wives previously, which was sinful (Dt. 17:17).
        4. After a lot of hard work, he was ready for a break. He deserved some self-indulgence.
        5. He went after Bathsheba solely for self-gratification. A life of ease led to sexual greed for Bathsheeba (2Sm. 11:2-5). This greed brought unending grief to he and his family for the rest of his life.
        6. Before the sin, things going great; after the sin, life went downwards.
    6. Idolatry in the life of King Solomon
        1. He followed sinful habits of his father. Rebelled against laws against polygamy (Dt. 17:17).
        2. He didn't just *take* foreign wives. He "loved" them (1Kings 11:1). Never said of his father. Married for more than just political purposes (1Kgs. 11:2).
        3. He was a womanizer (1Kings 11:3; Eccl. 2:8-10).
        4. He broke his own rule, that pleasure should come from wife, not wives (Pr. 5:15-19).
        5. He found that many wives didn't bring any more satisfaction than one wife (Eccl. 7:26).
    7. The Supremacy of the idol of covetousness
        1. Sexual lust is fed by deeper motivations. There are sexual gods in the heart. Covetousness is at the root of all sexual sin. It wants to serve self. Greed is main appeal.
        2. Ex, 20:17, "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife."
        3. Don't follow unbelievers. They "have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity" (Eph. 4:19).
        4. "Sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints" (Eph. 5:3).
        5. This is why masturbation is sinful. One sexual act that is pure greed. And all self-satsifying sex is sinful.
        6. Two broad categories of greed for sexual lust
            1. Craving for pleasurable satisfaction (longs for fulfillment/pleasure)
                1. Flattery
                2. Power/control
                3. Self-reward
                4. Comfort
            2. Pain: Longing for solace (a perceived hurt causes sexual sin; told by some to face his "hidden past" and accept it and express repressed anger for its damage; true, there can be painful memories in the past and must be dealt with [BTW, victimized people by grace can live without oppressive memories or sinful anger, Gn. 50:20;

Ps. 37:8; Eph. 4:26; Phil. 4:6-8; Col. 3:8; 1Pt. 2:21-25; 4:19]. However, our own sinful hearts think of ways of dealing with these memories. Covetous heart wants compensation for loss, like innocence, virginity, happiness etc. Ex. Young lady abused by father, grows up and wants attention of man, gives herself away; young man with little affection seeks it in homosexuality

1. Anger
2. Self-pity
3. Fear
4. Discontentment

3. Of the fifteen deeds of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21, ten deal with sexual practices: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, drunk, carousing).
4. Those who continue in these don't have the spirit (Gal. 5:21); That is, they *continue* in this kind of sin; present active verb. Otherwise, there will be change without resistence.
5. For a time they may be at mercy of the flesh but they can't remain there. If they do, they are showing they were never really converted.

8. A Heart Context of Anger

5. Consoling the Hurting Idols of Passion
    1. Intro
        1. Nothing is more sophisticated and complicated on earth than the human brain.
        2. Heart is complex too. (Pr. 19:21, Many are the plans in the mind of man…") Heart has many plans and purposes for doing things etc.
        3. Heart is complex AND clever. It deceives us into thinking we are better than we are. It devising ways to say we are free from sin when we are really indulging lusts. Crafts ways to avoid detection.
        4. Heart views enslaving sin as simple. Just a violation. Harmless infraction, easily committed and easily stopped.
        5. **Here there are 8 motivations/plans/purposes in ungodly sexuality.**
        6. **Core of all sexual sin is covetousness: ruled by sensual, self-seeking greed (Ex. 20:17; Dt. 5:21; Rm. 1:28-29; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5).**
        7. This covetousness expresses itself negatively or affirmingly, from which comes sexual sins
            1. Negative: you are hurting, suffering. You are running from something you think you do not deserve. Sexual pleasure compensates for pain and suffering.
            2. Greed needs pain reliever. Sex is it. "I don't want to suffer, so I'll escape through sexual self-indulgence." These four ruling desires are:
                1. Anger
                2. Self-pity
                3. Discontentment
                4. Fear
            3. Affirmative motivations: you are entitled and deserving. Running toward something you believe you deserve
                1. Self-reward
                2. Flattery
                3. Power/control
                4. Comfort
        8. These 8 fuel sexual lust. Many times situations overlap these 8. Example: girls sleeps with boyfriend for pleasure but also vengeance against overly strict parents.
    2. **#1: Anger** that leads to lustful fantasy and activity (Key: 2Sm. 13?)
        1. Like the person angry for not losing weight, so binges on chocolate cake.
        2. Child angry for fighting by parents. Deserved better. So indulged in sexual sins.
        3. Instead, he shouldn't feel angry for bad home life. God allowed these hardships in past to shape him into a better man and believer (Hb. 12:10-11).
        4. When we accept hardships as God's way to help us grow, we'll not be resentful or rebellious.
        5. Another sexual sin that flows from anger is rape. Woman thinks she's superior, so man wants to prove her wrong. Others made them hurt. Now he want to hurt others.
        6. It comes back to pride. "I deserve respect/sex with beautiful woman/treated well etc." I didn't get it. I'm angry. Now comes rape, pedophilia, murder etc.
        7. Dt. 22:25-26 speaks of this kind of sexual jealousy.
        8. Ex: a man is given AIDS by lover. In anger, he now wants to give it to as many as possible. Not for pleasure only. Malicious.

9. Ex: or, romantic rejection. Good example is Amnon in 2Sm. 13. Love half-sister Tamar and willing to do anything to get this beautiful woman in bed.
    1. No brotherly love. It was lust (v. 2).
    2. He was tormented. Frustrated, a kind of anger. Couldn't have her because she was a virgin and cloistered away and because she was his sister. Covetous people get angry when denied something they want. Like a spoiled child.
    3. Staged he was sick to trick her. She resisted and gave four arguments: (1) violation of God's word (Lv. 18:11), (2) be honorable, I'll be scorned, (3) He'd share in her disgrace (v. 13), (4) wait for permission, this was forbidden (Lv. 18:9, 11; 20:17), like desperation.
    4. But Amnon wouldn't be denied (v. 14). After rape, lust turned to hate. Hate and anger go together (Mt. 5:22).
10. Example: a woman desperately longs to be married. Never happens. In time, she grows to hate men. Scum. Can't get along with male bosses at work or brothers at home. Now turns her sexual passions to women who actually show her love.

3. **#2: Self pity** as the feeder for lustful desires and deeds (Key passage: Gn. 38)
    1. This is sympathy for oneself over a perceived slight or some kind of suffering. I now get special treatment.
    2. This person grants himself freedom to enjoy sexual sins. "Given my difficult situation, God will understand and over look my sexual sins."
    3. We rationalize because we are hurting so much, it justifies our sexual indulgence.
    4. Example: Themba's wife is a hateful, unbelieving person. She has no interest in going with him to church. She makes fun of his Bible reading and has begun withholding sexual relations with him. Themba knows what is expected of a Christian but its so hard. How can God expect him to continue this way? One of the ladies at his work has made eyes at him on a weekly basis. Maybe God put her in his office for a reason. Why not see where this leads?
    5. Here, self-pity could very well lead to adultery. Themba's heart is fertile for sexual sin because he is allowing self-pity to grow in his heart. He starts dreaming of women who would make him happy.
    6. Often, self-pity started at childhood. You created a habit of justifying your bad behavior by looking to the pain in your life.
    7. Example: Tintwalo's father died when she was two years old. Her stepfather began abusing her as a young girl. Finally, she told the police and he was thrown in jail. She became angry at her stepfather and mother and friends. She began sleeping around. She wanted approval from men she never got from her father. But then she became a Christian and met a Christian guy. She's tempted to sin with him. Couldn't it be Ok because of all the hurt she's experienced?
    8. Self-pity may lead to adultery. She's made an idol out of having a good father.
    9. Just like a drunk covers his sorrow with alcohol, sexual sins covers hurt too.
    10. Anger settles scores. It is full of vengeance. It is a weapon. Self-pity wants to soothe a hurting heart. It is a medicine.
    11. Good example is Judah and Tamar in Genesis 38
        1. Why this story in the middle of Joseph story? Joseph is off the scene in ch. 37. Judah next in line for father's blessings because of sins of Reuben, Simeon and Levi. This chapter shows great contrast between Joseph and Judah.
        2. Judah married Canaanite. Had three sons. Chose Canaanite wife for son Er. Her name was Tamar. God struck down Er for sin. Onan's responsibility to marry Tamar (levirate marriage, later commanded, Dt. 25:5-10). Onan refused to impregnate. God killed him. But Judah didn't want to give third son Shelah to cursed Tamar. He said just wait till he gets older. Meanwhile, Judah's wife dies.
        3. She laid a trap while Judah was traveling. She knew he wanted female companionship and perhaps self-pity fornication. She dressed as veiled prostitute and lured Judah into fornication. Judah never kept his part of the bargain. She would pay him back.
        4. Think of rationale:
            1. Judah had suffered much, far more than most men.
            2. He was far from home on business trip.
            3. No one would ever know.
        5. What motivated Judah was self pity. What motivated Tamar was anger.
        6. She wanted a down payment for a future goat price. This led to Judah being found out. Judah wanted to cover his self pity and Tamar wanted to punish. Both led to sins.

7. Yet, God in his mercy, used Judah as link in chain for Messiah (Ruth 4:18-22; mt. 1:3).
8. Judah should have run to God for comfort (Isa. 51:12; 2Co. 1:3), not sex. Tamar was Canaanite. Didn't know better. Judah should have known better.

12. Example: woman justifies her affair because her husband doesn't love her as Christ loved the church. Consumed with Romance novels. She continued to blame other people.
13. We must love unconditionally (Mt. 5:43-48; Jn. 13:1-35).
14. Some never got married and pushed away by girls. So they rationalize their pornography because of this.

4. **#3 Discontentment** as fertile ground for sexual lust (Key passage: Jude 7 or Genesis Sodom)
    1. When you don't get what you want or expect, you get dissatisfied. There is a hole and emptiness. Discontentment fills this with new excitement and experience. Always wants something unusual and new.
    2. People in Sodom were bored with wives and women. They wanted new. They had "unnatural desires" (Jude 7). They wanted variety. The angelic visitors provided this. There is a kind of thrill to something new and unknown.
    3. Proverbs speaks about the "forbidden woman" (2:16; 5:3, 20; 7:5). Because you can't have her, everyone wants her. We want the secretive (Pr. 22:14).
    4. Some men get bored with their wives. Same old same old. They want mystery, not familiarity. This is very enticing. "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant" (Pr. 9:17). This is a word picture of having sex with another man's wife.
    5. Could this be why so many men from our churches want girls from outside our church? How can it be that they say they aren't interested in the Christian girls in our churches, but then be willing to sleep with and live with and even marry girls they just met recently. They are from other churches, other language groups, other towns. They are a mystery. They are unknown. This is alluring.
    6. Mr. Bemba has been married for ten years but his wife has been sick for many of those years. She mostly stays at home. At work, he meets a new secretary from Kenya, Sarah. Her accent is alluring and she's beautiful. They now work in the same office every day and she is flirtatious. Mr. Bemba considers changing jobs, because he knows this is leading down the wrong path, but he fears he could not find work elsewhere. He begins fantasizing about the Kenyan woman. He loses his attraction to his wife, who has gained weight for sitting at home so often.
    7. Mr. Bemba is playing with fire. "For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, **4** but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. **5** Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol (Pr 5:3-5). His mental fantasies will only pull his heart further from his wife.
    8. Mr. Bemba's idol is discontentment. But this idol never satisfies. It always wants more time, more money, more energy. Sarah will never satisfy him.
        1. *Pr. 5:8, Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house.*
        2. *1Tm. 6:6, There is great gain in godliness with contentment.*
    9. Gender disphoria is another form of discontentment. Transgender fight how God made them. They are angry men seem to get more opportunities. They think God has made a mistake in making them how they are. God doesn't make mistakes (Num. 23:19). To reject your sex is to reject God the creator (1Tm. 4:4).
    10. Today, everyone says: be true to yourself. But we can't trust ourselves (Gn. 6:5; Ps. 14:1-3; 36:1-12; Pr. 6:18; 16:2; 21:2; Mt. 15:19; Rm. 1:28-32).
5. **#4 Fear** that feeds sexual lust (Gn. 16)
    1. Some ways fear leads to sexual lust
        1. Fear of loneliness (thus, I'll marry an unbeliever; I'll live with my girlfriend)
        2. Fear late marriage (too old to be a mother; thus get pregnant any way you can)
        3. Fear of rejection (gives in to coercion of boyfriend)
        4. Fear of public scorn (fornicates with girl so his friends won't laugh at him)
    2. Sarah feared going childless, so she told Abe to commit adultery with Hagar (Gn. 16:2). Abe was just as afraid because he went along with it
    3. Ishmael was born by sinful means (Gal. 4:23). But he was not to be the heir (Gn. 15:4). But this seemed reasonable. Sarah was in 70's. It was the custom to do this kind of thing. Many feared childlessness (1Sm. 1:10-20).
    4. They stopped following God's promises and followed cultural custom.
    5. You also will be tempted to convincing reasons to sin sexually. If you do this, it will be because you fear and distrust God's promises.
    6. Lot's daughters feared too. So they committed incest (Gn. 19:30-36).

7. Example: I'm living with my boyfriend because he's only one who has showed me attention. She fears not getting married and having children. God understands.
8. Fear makes people do almost anything (Isa. 3:16; 4:1).
9. Example: a young man fears ridicule of his university friends so he sleeps with a prostitute.
10. You are most susceptible to these sins when you are hurting. It weakens your resolve. You must deal with these desires. Repentance and life of purity will move you forward.

6. Feeding the Hungering Idols of Passion
    1. Intro
        1. When your heart desires for sinful sexual satisfaction, it will not satisfy. Like sucking in air, it will not fill a hungry stomach. You'll be empty (Ec. 7:26)
        2. We already looked at motivations of the hurting heart. Now we'll see the hungering heart.
    2. **#5, Self-reward** for extraordinary dedication
        1. I deserve a break for all the sacrifices I make. I deserve a little fun.
        2. If I do enough righteous deeds, this will give me enough funds to purchase a sexual sin. Now he makes more self-sacrifice deeds to buy the abilty to sin.
        3. Dt. 21:10-14, God would not allow soldiers to justify their vuoswi with captured women. He had to wait for proper marriage union.
        4. One sexual sin can ruin lifetime of faithfulness. "My good far outweighs my bad" is a lie. Ecc. 10:1: "Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench; so a little follow outweighs wisdom and honor."
        5. Luke 17:7-10 teaches that faithful labor doesn't entitle God's people to unique and special privileges. Servant doesn't deserve anything. Not owed by master.
        6. God expects holiness (1Pt. 1:16; Lev. 11:44; 19:2; 20:7). Don't go into the game expecting to get hurt or expecting to sin.
        7. Pride always leads to sin and fleshly sins (Rm. 8:3-4; 13). Greed at core of sin.
    3. **#6, Flattery and praise** that nourish sexual lust (Key passage: Proverbs 2 and 4)
        1. Everyone wants to the love and approval of others. But those who desire this greatly will be greatly tempted by flattery toward sexual sin.
        2. Secular counselors will say you suffer (you're a victim) of low self-esteem. Foolish! You don't need more self-esteem. We already think too highly of ourselves.
        3. Those starving for attention often yield to sexual temptation.
        4. The fantasy world feeds this because everyone in this world thinks you are great.
        5. Solomon warns about this kind of person (Pr. 2:13-15). She flatters the young man who is naïve.
        6. Great full block quote from Steve Gallagher (p. 156). Use. Quote was from 20 years ago
        7. Think of all the seduction Africans see every day. Present it as fun, opposite of Pr. 2:18-19).
        8. Rogers was a third year student at a University in Joburg. He was athletic, smart and respected. A young teacher fresh from university taught his biology class and was newly married. They started flirting, something everyone in the class could see. Soon, he dropped out of school, she left her husband and they began living together. They were in love. But his lasted only three months. Rogers found out the teacher followed him in order to escape her bad marriage. Once she found an older man with more money, she dumped Rogers. Now Rogers, once respected, is a college drop out, has a venereal diseases and has lost his dignity.
        9. Many women are experts at seduction (Pr. 6:24). She reduces a man to a loaf of bread (6:26). After all, what can a loaf of bread do to resist someone who wants to rip it in half. Bread isn't a piece of steal. It is vulnerable. Just like this young man. He is helpless. He is like a wild animal hunted down by this woman (v. 26).
        10. Someone willing to take another man's wife will pay severely. He will be jealous. We can forgive a theif. He may be starving. He can pay us back. No mercy for the adulterer (Pr. 6:30-35). This is so stupid! He lacks sense (Pr. 6:32).
        11. Proverbs 7 again is a story of a stupid young man. He's like a dumb ox (see personal notes here)
        12. Paint another African scenario.
        13. Israel loved flatterers that would tell them soft words. Jeremiah filled with this (Peace!)
        14. Not just flatters fault. "Seductive words, no matter how enticing, cannot charm the disinclined heart." (Pr. 26:28; Job 32:21-22; 1Th. 2:5; Ps. 12:2-3).
    4. **#7, The Desire** for Power and control (Prov. 6; Isa. 3)
        1. They take delight in using sex appeal to seduce others. You know the power you have.
        2. Women in Israel knew the power they had (Isa. 3:16-24). They dressed a certain way to seduce men. They could turn heads and could control a crowd. They took pride in this.

3. God hated this. He caused them to go bald. They took away their jewels and their good health and their husbands.
4. The woman in Pr. 6 lures the man with her eyes and beauty (vv. 24-25). He's like a helpless lamb (Pr. 7).
5. Potipher's wife could have had any man because of her positon. She tried to lure Joseph to fornicate (Gn. 39:10-12).
6. Again, this goes back to not be satisfied. We see the melons and onions in Egypt (Nm. 11:5). God's provisions not enough. We are greedy. (Pr. 13:25; Eccl. 6:7).
7. In the OT, some people try to control others by getting them drunk (Hab. 2:15). Uncover nakedness was a picture to expose someone to have sinful activity (Gn. 19:33-35; Lv. 18:6-19; Dt. 22:30).
8. This person wants to be worshipped like a god. To Control.

5. **#8, Desire to comfort (Hosea 2)**
    1. People are drawn to sex because it provides great bodily pleasure. It can settle and soothe the body and relieve tension.
    2. Comfort can become a god. You'll do anything for it (Tit. 3:3). Pleasure in sex is not forbidden, only outside of marriage is it bad.
    3. Holy lust is good (Hb. 13:4). But comfort can become an idol. You'll do anything for it. It can direct you away from your spouse (Pr. 5:16). For some, sex is an idol (Jer. 5:7-8). They jump the fence.
    4. Example: Rhandzu has lived a life of sexual sin. She was with many boys in highschool and around the village. She's now married for the second time and not happy.
    5. A woman like Rhandzu in Scripture: Gomer. God told the prophet Hosea to take a wife of whoredom (Hos. 1:2). This is most likely a command anticipating her prostitution.
    6. So he married her. She was unfaithful, living in prostitution. (Hs. 2:5). She'd give comfort of sex to others (2:5). She was a picture of Israel.
    7. She never found fulfillment. She eventually went b. ack to husband (2:7). This came only after judgment (v. 6). She had a ravenous appetite for sexual pleasure. Like Rhandzu. Addicted to sex. Sex with oneman not normal. She believe one man was not enough. We must learn to live for God, not comfort.
    8. Last days, people will be lovers of pleasure (2Tm. 3:4).
    9. Questions at end of chapters KEY!

7. A Biblical Stress Test
    1. Perhaps you struggle with sexual sin.
    2. Perhaps you have patterns and habits that you have for a long time.
    3. I keep on falling to sin. Constantly.
    4. We must understand doctrine of sanctification. Justification is monergistic. Sanctification is synergistic. It is a dual process (Rm. 6:5-7; Col. 1:29). Christian life comes by TOIL and agonizing and struggling. Have to make changes to have a pure heart (Rm. 6:1).
    5. **Thesis of books: sinful passions come from heart and stimulates body to sin. For compete change, you must deal with the passions at their source!**
    6. **Must find these impure preconditions toward repentance and living a life of purity. You can't change, or repent until you know what these impurities are.**
    7. You must be absolutely honest to find root of impurities and heart motivations.
    8. Core of all sexual sin is covetousness (Eph. 5:1).
8. Critical Prerequisites of a Pure Heart
    1. So far, we've been looking at what is wrong with the heart. You must find out heart motivations.
    2. Purity starts with biblical heart hermeneutics
        1. Understanding the heart. Difficult. Heart is cunning. Counselor in war zone. He fights his own heart and theirs.
        2. Satan wants to convince you there is no hope.
        3. COME BACK TO THIS SECTION

9. The Sources of Purity for the Pure Heart
    1. Intro
        1. We can't focus on changing one's morality and behavior directly. We must focus on the gospel and the solutions that flow from that.
        2. Psychology often turn sexually based individuals into victims of past trauma which supposedly is the driving force to their erotic imagination.
        3. The source of lust for them is internal pain of loneliness, poor self-esteem etc.

4. Scripture doesn't teach people commit sexual sins because they think they are unworthy. It is the opposite. They think to highly of self.
5. Sex Addicts Anonymous tries to fix addictions by stopping behavior. "He goes in an enslaved sinner; he comes out a self-righteous Pharisee."
6. Is there a solution for the impure heart? Yes!
7. Here is five-fold strategy:

2. 1: Become a disciple of the gospel of grace
    1. Confession and repentance
        1. Once you have located your idolatrous motivation in your heart, you must repent of it (Ez. 14:6-7; 1Jn. 1:8-10).
        2. Confession means to call your thoughts and behaviors what God calls it: sin.
        3. You must change your mind completely so that it leads to permanent change of life.
        4. Repentance puts a plan into action.
        5. Regarding those in Corinth, Paul was concerned they had not properly dealt with their sin.
            1. "I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced." (2Cor. 12:21)
            2. The tense of the word "sinned" means this was persistent sin over a long time.
            3. The tense of the word "repented means it was supposedly a one-time thing in the past. Since they continued in sin, it shows they never really repented.
            4. Three descriptions of their sin: "impurity" (sexual uncleanness), "sexual immorality" (fornication etc.), "sensuality" (animal-like lust)
    2. Weakness and humility
        1. The Corinthians kept on sinning, when they should have repented. They were enslaved
        2. Paul said that he was weak too (2Co. 12:7). He was given a thorn in the flesh that on three occasions God refused to remove (v. 9).
        3. Why? When we are weak, God is able to show his power of grace. Often, weakness keeps us from pride (2Cor. 12:7).
        4. We should be content with weaknesses (2Cor. 12:9-10). Weakness shows us our pride and forces us to rely on Christ to overcome something we can't on our own.
    3. Freedom from sin's dominion
        1. *Rom. 6:8-10, Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.* ***9*** *We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.* ***10*** *For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.*
        2. What does it mean to "die with Christ"? How did Christ "die to sin"?
        3. Sin can no longer absolutely dominate a Christian. Sin can only dominate unbelievers. Sin can be active in Christian but can never dominate them.
        4. John Owen has said that for Christians, sin is a burden that afflicts us, not a pleasure that delights us.
    4. Living in grace
        1. *Titus 2:11-12, For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,* ***12*** *training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.*
        2. Grace "trains" us. It prepares us through discipline. Grace is unmerited favor.
        3. Hlamalani broke the rules. He was disrespectful, lazy and came home two hours late His father was not happy. Hlamalani knew he deserved discipline. But instead, his father extended grace and gave his son several privileges he didn't deserve. The rest of the day, Hlamalani was living in grace. He was getting what he didn't deserve. "Can I do anything to help you, Dad?" "Father, did I do a good enough job in the garden?" Grace changes behavior.
        4. When we see ourselves as wicked sinners deserving death, but through Christ we now get heaven and a new heart, it will change the way we live. God has forgiven you and given you the ability to fight sin. Then why do you continue to live in sexual impurity?
3. 2: Clean up your life thoroughly and biblically
    1. Holiness

1. Your goal regarding sexual sins is not improvement. It is holiness (1Th. 4:3-8).
2. JC Ryle: "A holy man…will dread all filthiness and uncleanness of spirit, and seek to avoid all things that might draw him into it. He knows his own heart is like tinder, and will diligently keep clear of the sparks of temptation. Who shall dare to talk of strength when David can fall?"
3. Any impurities in the heart (anger, self-pity, discontentment, fear, self-reward, flattery, power, comfort) can cause a huge fire of lust if they are not dealt with.
4. "You must purpose to cease sinning instead of purposing to sin less" (1Pt. 1:16) – John Street

2. Kill sin
    1. *Col. 3:5-7, <u>Put to death</u> therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.* ***6*** *On account of these the wrath of God is coming.* ***7*** *In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.*
    2. Death demands everything. If you want to conquer sexual sin, you must be willing to give over everything. You'll never win with partial obedience. You must give your whole life to righteousness and permit lust to die.
    3. The solution to sexual sin is not becoming a monk or a nun (Col. 2:23).
    4. Catholic priests refuse some personal pleasures, but this doesn't cur their lust. Self hasn't died. You must be willing to die daily (Lk. 9:23).
3. Enliven righteousness
    1. Behaviorism: simply stopping bad desires and behaviors.
    2. If you get rid of bad actions, you'll just have vacuum in your heart. Must replace it
    3. Don't just try to get rid of sexual fantasies. Focus on memorizing Scripture and thinking on pure things (Phil. 4:8).
    4. Building houses may be your passions. Purpose to focus on building a beautiful house every time an impure thought comes to mind. In time, this mental adventure will become habit.

4. 3: Do not trust your feelings
    1. Feelings deceive
    2. Feelings of hopelessness
        1. Prov. 5:22, The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.
        2. Sexual desire often *feels* irresistible. It's like a magnet that pulls us.
        3. *Ps. 107:10, Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons.*
        4. *Jn. 8:34, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits [continually practices] sin is a slave to sin.*
        5. Some think it is impossible to change. God must do a great work, but he also desire you to be a part of the process of change (Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 1:29). You can't expect to pray and sit back. We must do our part.
        6. *Pr. 5:23, He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.*
5. 4: Be vigilant about occasions of temptation
    1. Any occasion that stirs your desires should be radically removed from your life if it is a temptation (e.g. friends, movies, phone etc.).
    2. First you must confess your heart idols. Then you must remove external sources of temptation. It doesn't matter how precious it is. You must radically remove it (Mt. 5:29-30).
6. **5: Learn to trust the Bible-teaching church**
    1. Ill.: Jet pilots that can't see in fog trust their instruments. Trust your leaders
    2. There are many examples in Scripture of those who resists sexual sin (Joseph in Gn. 39:7-10; Tamar in 2Sm. 13:12-14; Moses in Heb. 11:24-26).

10. **The Sexual Desire of the Pure Heart**
    1. Five guidelines of sexuality in marriage for couples wanting to be faithful to God and each other
        1. Scripture encourages passionate lovemaking in monogamous heterosexual marriages
            1. In Pr. 5, a husband's sexual energies are described as cisterns, wells, springs and fountains (Pr. 5:15-18). These things store, channel and protect water. In the same way, a husband is to store, channel, and protect his sex drive with his wife.
            2. According to 1 Cor. 7:3, the goal of sex is to satisfy your spouse, not yourself.

3. *Prov. 5:18-19, Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth,* ***19*** *a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her loves.*
4. *1Cor. 7:5, Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

2. Marriage covenants means sexual activity is for fulfillment of spouse, not self
    1. Spouses have duties to each other (1Cor. 7:3).
3. Maritial sex is not immune from sinful lust if spouses use sinful fantasies for arousal
    1. The marriage bed is defiled when your lustful heart takes over (Hb. 13:4)
4. Recurrent sexual relations in marriage fight against sexual temptation
    1. Ongoing sexual relations is very important (1Cor. 7:5). Guidelines:
        1. By agreement (ceases only if mutual agreement)
        2. By limited time (ceases only for a short time)
        3. By prayer (ceases only in emergency situations when prayer is needed)
    2. Question isn't: when do we have sex? But instead, when do we *not* have sex?
    3. Question: how often should spouses have sex? Answer: until both spouses are satisfied.
5. Couples must be open and honest about their sexual desires

2. Maintaining sexual purity while single
    1. Those with gift of celibacy don't feel tension of sexual fulfillment (1Co. 7:7).
    2. If someone is weighed down by sexual lust, he or she does not have the gift of celibacy
    3. *Matt. 19:12, For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.*
    4. Eunuchs here are celibate singles that have single-minded devotion to the kingdom of God. No interest or time for marriage or sex.
    5. 1Cor. 7:9 doesn't say marriage cures lust. Married people can still lust. We're not to marry out of desperation. But if two strongly attached to one another, get married.
    6. Self-stimulation is common among singles, with pornographic pictures for men and romantic stories for women. SS is mental adultery (Mt. 5:27-28). Difficult sin to break.
3. Mate selection and sexual lust
    1. Some marry out of anger to prove parents and authorities wrong ("We'll show them!")
    2. Others get married for the other 7 idols we mentioned.
    3. Christians should not get married out of "passion of lust' (1Th. 4:5). This is how unbelievers chose their wives. Examples some marry out of "passion of lust":
        1. Getting a girl pregnant to obligate her to get married
        2. Fornicating beforehand.
    4. This is what pagans do that do not know God. Christians must do honorable thing by giving vows before witnesses.
    5. He who finds a wife finds a good thing (Pr. 18:22).
4. Sex education for children
    1. When should I talk to my kids about sex?
    2. What should I talk about to my preteens about sex? James Dobson gives ten items (p. 253)

11. Conclusion
    1. For lust-driven men who make sexual sins to be small things, read Jer. 5:8-9
    2. For lust-driven women who make sexual sins to be small things, read Jer. 13:26-27
    3. Take lust seriously. Find every tendency of the heart that allows idols to lead you into sexual sin
    4. Sevenfold summary of sexual enslavement
        1. What idolatrous craving has your sexual lust revealed? You'll never changed until you find these
        2. Willing to die to that which has become precious to you?
        3. If single, are you willing to pour youself into service for God (Pr. 5:15-20; 1Co. 7:8-35; Hb. 12:7-13).
    5. Great prayer for sexual sin, Valley of vision, pp. 146-47