

HOLINESS IN OUR SEXUALITY

GODLY SEXUALITY – THE WAY TO HAPPINESS AND HOLINESS

SYNOPSIS...

Today, sexuality is a hot topic and a source of great controversy. Humankind has made sexuality an end in itself. Believing that fulfillment is found most in where we find sexual satisfaction and in how we identify ourselves sexually. Yet, God did not design it that way. Scripture speaks to human sexuality from a holistic perspective of God's plan and design. The Bible places human sexuality within the total context of human nature, happiness, and holiness. We are created by God to be sexual creatures, and as sexual creatures we are called to honor God with our bodies. Within the God-ordained context of the marital covenant, husband and wife are free to express love for each other, experience pleasure, and join in the procreative act of sexual union. This is beautiful and pleasing to God and is not intended to be a source of shame. The biblical writers link holiness to happiness. True human happiness comes in the fulfillment of sexual holiness.

LESSON...

- Today, sexuality is a hot topic and a source of great controversy. Humankind has made sexuality an end in itself. Believing that fulfillment is found most in where we find sexual satisfaction and in how we identify ourselves sexually. Yet, God did not design it that way. Scripture speaks to human sexuality from a holistic perspective of God's plan and design.
 - The Bible places human sexuality within the total context of human nature, happiness, and holiness. We are created by God to be sexual creatures, and as sexual creatures we are called to honor God with our bodies.
 - **Sexuality is a Gift from God**
 - The biblical writers confirm the goodness of sexuality as God's gift. The entire book of Song of Solomon is an extended love poem with explicit erotic imagery and language that is intended to demonstrate the goodness of sex between a husband and wife.
 - Sex is affirmed as a source of pleasure and shared intimacy between husband and wife. Sexual pleasure is not an accident of human biology—it is one of the Creator's sweetest gifts to human beings.
 - Genesis 2:25 – *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*
 - Speaking about "nakedness" in the OT is more than just being naked. It actually is talking about the sexual relationship. In fact, a reoccurring phrase in the OT is "to uncover nakedness," which refers most often to sexual intercourse.
 - So, here, Adam and Eve's nakedness was uncovered and there was no shame. Why? Because it was good as it was designed to be.

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- So, all of us were created by God with a desire for sexual intimacy. Today, science calls this desire our “sex drive”. Funny thing is, there is a lot of talk about what a normal sex drive is. That is an illusion! There is no “normal” sex drive. Every one of us is unique in our sex drive. However, all of us have sex drives to one extent or another, and they are gifts and natural.
 - But here is an important truth: Although they are called sex drives, God did not intend for them to drive us. Instead, they need to be under submission/self-control. We are to walk in step with the Spirit, not according to the flesh.
 - Paul tells us in Galatians 5:16-25,
¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
 - Today, we are taught not only that sex is good and natural, but that it should be enjoyed freely and in whatever way we see fit. You hear the argument, “I am genetically predisposed towards this form of sex or sexuality.” Hear me when I say this (this is foundational to our discussions this weekend):
Predisposition does not give permission!
 - Another way we can talk about predisposition through Scripture is the sinful nature. Because it is my predisposition, or my sinful nature, does not mean I should engage in it. Instead, we are called to live holy lives. Something we will focus on throughout the weekend.

- So, although sex and our sexuality are a gift from God and natural, it is not equal to our predisposition, or what Paul would call our sinful nature.
- **Marriage as a Gift, Not a Curse**
 - The gift and promise of sexual pleasure and satisfaction is to draw us into the marital covenant, and then shared joy of physical union is a vital part of the marital bond.
 - Within the God-ordained context of the marital covenant, husband and wife are free to express love for each other, experience pleasure, and join in the procreative act of sexual union. This is beautiful and pleasing to God and is not intended to be a source of shame.
 - But marriage is not often seen as a gift, but more of a curse today. Society degrades it, people are trying to annihilate it, and media makes fun of it. However, God instituted marriage as a sacred covenant for a reason.
 - **God saw that it was not good for man to be alone.** Or “NOT COMPLETE”. So, He created woman to be a helper for the man and the two became “one flesh”. This is a reflection of the Trinity and a reflection of our relationship with God.
 - **Union between man and woman is intended to be a reflection of our Union with Christ.** Marriage is a true picture of the gospel (or, at least it is intended to be).
 - **Why do you think that Satan attacks it so much?** Not only marriage, but sexuality itself. If he can get people seeing this relationship in a very skewed and critical way, then that is how we will eventually view our relationship with God.
 - In Christian West's book “Theology of the Body for Beginners” he states, **“If you want to know what is most sacred, look for what is most violently profaned.”**
 - God uses marriage as His way for us understand what our relationship is supposed to be with Him. Sadly, how we view our earthly marriages is how we often view our heavenly one. Let's consider God's marriage with us for a moment and how it connects with our marriages...
 - *Covenant Marriage* – Talk about that more in the next session
 - *Passionate Marriage* – Song of Solomon/Songs (picture of a suiter in disguise encountering a maiden, she is unworthy, He is the King)
 - *Fighting Marriage* – Just read the prophets. Israel is the unfaithful bride that God is constantly contending with.
 - *One-Side Marriage* – God has NEVER had a faithful spouse!

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- *Heroic Marriage* – It is truly a SACRIFICIAL marriage. As one gives up His life for the other. When spouses are willing to live out a sacrificial marriage, that is when true spiritual formation happens. Why? Because we are living out what God did for us. We are truly Christlike in that moment.
- So, marriage is more than a simple physical union and emotional relationship. Marriage is very spiritual. It is not only horizontal, it is also vertical, reaching into deeper union with God. Marriage is great, but it isn't forever: GOD IS. With God as the center of the marriage, both spouses are made holy before Him as He makes them holy through their relationship.
 - Why do you think Peter taught, *"Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct."* (1 Peter 3:1-2) Paul says the same thing in 1 Cor. 7 to both husband and wife.
 - Peter also tells the husband how to care for his wife since there are heirs of God's grace and so that prayers may not be hindered (1 Peter 3:7). Our relationship with God is helped or hindered by our marriages. Our marriages are often the difference between living holy or unholy lives.
- Holiness in our marriages is not only found in praying and reading our Bibles together. It is also found in the intimacy we discover through the sexual relationship.
- **Sexual Intimacy as a Sign of Godly Intimacy**
 - **Ephesians 5:21-33**
 - ²¹ *submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*
 - ²² *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.* ²³ *For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.* ²⁴ *Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.* ²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,* ²⁶ *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* ²⁷ *so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.* ²⁸ *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* ²⁹ *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,* ³⁰ *because we are members of his body.*
 - ³¹ *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."* ³² *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

³³ *However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

- The bond of intimacy found between a husband and wife is a profound mystery. Why? Because it reflects the intimacy intended between Christ and the church.
- But intimacy is only one of the gifts of sex and our sexuality. Through sex we have the joy and gift of being able to join God in the creative process. We find this in the first Great Commission.
- **The First Great Commission**
 - In Genesis 1 we read of the creation account. Verses 26-27 speak to the creation of humankind. God breathes a word and says: *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*¹
 - God creates man and woman in His image (the *imago Dei*) and gives them dominion over the earth. However, dominion was not the only task for humankind.
 - In verse 28, God tells His children to "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it,"² and then repeats His call for them to have dominion over it. His instruction to "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..." occurs often through Scripture. Consider these passages:
 - **Genesis 9:1, 7** – And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.... And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it."
 - **Genesis 17:1-8** – When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and **may multiply you greatly.**" Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. **I will make you exceedingly fruitful,** and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your

¹ Gen 1:26-27.

² Gen 1:28.

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offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

- **Genesis 26:4** – "**I will multiply your offspring** as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed..."
- **Genesis 35:11** – And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: **be fruitful and multiply**. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body."
- **Genesis 48:4** - And Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.'
- It was God's intention from the beginning for His created children to go out and make more children. Why?
 - It is because of how He created them. You see, God created all things, but when he got to the creation of man things changed. Something was different about how He created man and woman. What was it?
 - That's right! He created man and woman in His **image** and **likeness**. This is something unlike all the rest of creation. This unique characteristic of humankind is what God wanted to be multiplied throughout the earth. This was to take place through an intimacy enjoyed between man and woman, and it was good!
- God intended for man and woman to have an intimate relationship with one another because it revealed to them the kind of relationship that He wanted to have with humankind from the beginning. This is a unique privilege that also places in each of us an innate longing for and connection not only to one another, but also to the Father (as Jesus demonstrated).
- These passages demonstrate that as we multiply (both from a physical and a spiritual sense) that we are creating more images of God. Look at this passage in Genesis 5:1-3...

*This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him **in the likeness of God**. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when*

they were created. When Adam had lived 130 years, **he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image**, and named him Seth.

- Adam created Seth in his image and likeness, which is the image and likeness of God. That means the image is passed along from one person to the next. That's why God is so jealous and does not want us to have any idols carved in any image or likeness. Why? Because YOU are His image and likeness and YOU are supposed to represent and reflect Him in this world. Nothing else in all of creation can compare. As Romans 8:29 says, this was God's plan before creation. He wanted us to be conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus (which is the *imago Dei*).
- Does all that make sense? As you were created, so you are to **"Go"** and **"Multiply"**. So, when we enjoy the intimate, sexual relationship between husband and wife and have children, we are being fruitful and multiplying the image of God, which is the image of Christ, in the world. By that union we are living physically what we are to be experiencing spiritually with God: intimacy that multiplies other images of God (becoming disciples [intimacy with God] that make disciples [multiplying images of God]).
- So, I've shared all this to remind us, sex and our sexuality are good! Designed by God for His good pleasure AND ours. Living in Godly Sexuality moves us to happiness and holiness. So, there is HOPE. Even in a world that distorts sex and our sexuality, even if you are struggling, even if you know someone who is struggling, and even if you feel as if there is no way out, there is HOPE. This weekend I pray you are filled with hope and come to know how God wants you to live in holiness enjoying what He has gifted and blessed you with.
 - Now, some of you may be thinking, "What about those who are single? Are they doomed to unhappiness? Are they not as holy as married people?" Absolutely not! Paul indeed said that it was better not to marry and remain single in order to be wholly devoted to the Lord in holiness!
 - But what about sex? They still want it. They still have a sex drive. How are they to ever find sexual fulfillment?
 - We will discuss a lot of this as we go, but for right now I want to say that nowhere in all of Scripture is "sexual fulfillment" discussed. God never talks through any of His authors about how we need to find fulfillment in sex. That is a human-made concept. Fulfillment is found in God alone. Our identity is found in God alone.
 - So, remaining single may mean struggling sexually, but being filled spiritually. More so than others, but perhaps with greater difficulty at times.
 - I wanted to end with this thought because I know we have people from different walks. As Paul said to the Corinthians, "remain as you are" and be holy!

COVENANT FAITHFULNESS TO SPOUSE AND GOD

SYNOPSIS...

God saw that it was not good (or "NOT COMPLETE") for man to be alone. So, He created woman to be a helper for the man and the two became "one flesh". This is a reflection of the Trinity and a reflection of our relationship with God. *Union between man and woman is intended to be a reflection of our Union with Christ.* Marriage is a true picture of the gospel (or, at least it is intended to be). God gives us earthly relationships in order to understand heavenly ones. Why do you think Satan attacks it so much? Marriage is more than a contract, it's a covenant made between husband, wife, and God. It is intended to be lived out in faithfulness so that both man and woman understand how to remain faithful to God. This is the mark of true holiness as God intended it, as God designed it. Sexual purity and holiness find their root in covenant faithfulness.

LESSON...

- God gives us earthly relationships in order to understand heavenly ones. Why do you think Satan attacks marriage so much? Marriage is more than a contract, it's a covenant made between husband, wife, and God. It is intended to be lived out in faithfulness so that both man and woman understand how to remain faithful to God. This is the mark of true holiness as God intended it, as God designed it. Sexual purity and holiness find their root in covenant faithfulness.
- **God's Design for Sexuality**
 - We often believe that the greatest change that our children and teens experience today is technology. Yet, there is perhaps not other area in our contemporary culture that has experienced greater change than the Western world's view of gender, sexuality, and marriage. The dizzying speed of cultural change in this area will reshape and reframe faith communities for some time to come. It is important that we allow Scripture to define sexuality as God intended it rather than allow the ideologies of the world to come in and distort our views. **So, what is God's design for sexuality? Why?**
 - **Image-Bearers**
 - Genesis 1:26-27 – *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
 - As part of our uniqueness as human beings, we are image-bearers (Gen 1:26). That means we are reflections of God and our purpose is to portray Him and His creative and redemptive activity in the world, even in our sexuality.
 - God created humanity in His own image, BOTH male and female. Since God's image and character includes both *male and female* attributes (Gen 1:27), we bear God's image in our sexuality,

specifically in our sexual differentiation. Being either male or female is not incidental OR accidental to our nature, but it is **essential**.

- God wants us to embrace, not reject nor distort, our sex or sexuality as He created it in us.
- But I am speaking more to the gender aspect of our sexuality. That is only one component of God's creative act in us. As a part of His design of genders (male and female) He also created and designed marriage and sexual intercourse.

- **God's Design for Marriage and Sex**

- Genesis 2 tells us that God made man from the dust and breathed life into him. Then God gave Adam the Garden of Eden to maintain and enjoy – a job made for him to enjoy in God's presence (Gen 2:1-17).
- But that wasn't enough. God recognized that it was "not good" for Adam to be alone. He needed someone less like the animals and more like himself who complimented rather than conflicted with him. He needed someone that could help him accomplish God's command to "be fruitful and multiply."
- To accomplish this, God knew Adam needed someone very different from himself. Therefore, God created Eve, a "helper-companion," not from the dust of the ground but from Adam's own being. He took a rib from Adam's side and fashioned Eve (perhaps symbolic of her sharing life with him at his side, intimately close to his heart).
- Man and woman are similar yet distinct, equal yet different. God designed masculinity and femininity not just as psychologically or socially constructed realities – but they are indelibly linked to biology. At the DNA level, God fitted together man and woman together. Their similar but distinct identities and characteristics beautifully display the unity, diversity, and equality intrinsic to God's design for human sexuality.
- This tension is actually a reflection of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Spirit are the same, yet distinct. Each person is fully and equally God, yet they are different. In the same way, masculine and feminine distinctiveness is designed by God to reflect His nature and characteristics and from the beginning determined to be "very good."
- After Eve was created, he brought her to the man and joined them together in the very first wedding (Gen 2:24) as the two became "one flesh." This joining was both physical and spiritual. Therefore, marriage is the most intimate of all human relationships as it symbolizes the union we are to have with God.
 - In this first union, God joined Adam and Eve spirit to spirit (covenant), and flesh to flesh (sex). Let's address the later briefly as we have already discussed it together.
 - The design of the marriage relationship includes sexual intercourse. Sex is intended for...
 - Consummation – The physical expression of the union of marriage.

- *Procreation* – Being fruitful and multiplying through children, filling the earth with God's glory through His image-bearers.
 - *Recreation* – Sex is intended for joy, pleasure, and resting in one another's presence. A sign of our intended relationship with God.
- But marriage did not only join man and woman flesh to flesh, but also spirit to spirit. This was done through covenant. Let me explain...

• **Contract vs. Covenant**

- Marriage is a sacrificial commitment that supremely values the good of the relationship over each individual's needs.
- This commitment is at the heart of covenant, a concept that is increasingly absent from our cultural framework for relationships. Today, marriage is commonly viewed as a contract built upon individual happiness and fulfillment, the quest for a compatible soul mate that will provide lasting satisfaction and passionate romance. In the Bible, marriage is not just a bilateral contract agreed upon between two human beings, but a sacred bond that is horizontal *and* vertical in nature, where vows are made with one another and with God. Covenant involves both intimate love and binding commitment, the necessary ingredients for a faithful, lasting marriage. In the garden of Eden, marriage was as it was intended to be – one man and one woman living in covenantal relationship with God and one another.
- **Genesis 1:26-31 & 2:7, 15-25 (Covenant Marriage)** – Not simply a covenant between the man and woman, but between God and the couple.

○ **Contract vs. Covenant**

- What is the difference between a contract and a covenant?

Category	Contract	Covenant
<i>Form/Literary Structure</i>	1. Date 2. Parties 3. Transaction 4. Investiture 5. Guarantees 6. Scribe 7. List of Witnesses	1. Speaker Introduced 2. History of Relationship 3. General Command 4. Detailed Stipulations 5. Document Statement 6. Witnesses 7. Blessings and Curses
<i>Occasion</i>	Expected Benefit	Desire for Relationship
<i>Initiative</i>	Mutual Agreement	Stronger Party
<i>Orientation</i>	Negotiation Thing-oriented	Gift Person-oriented
<i>Obligation</i>	Performance	Loyalty
<i>Termination</i>	Specified	Indeterminate
<i>Violation</i>	Yes	Yes

- Let's take a look at how God views covenants...
 - Genesis 12:1-3 – *Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I*

will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- Genesis 15 – After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue^[a] childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son^[b] shall be your heir." ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

⁷ And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give^[c] this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

- Suzerain Vassal Treaty/Covenant (Ray Vander Laan)
- Genesis 17 & 21 (25 years before the promise was realized)

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- Genesis 22 – Sacrifice of Isaac
- The covenant fully realized through the sacrifice of Jesus! (18 centuries, 1767 years later)

JEWISH TIME	ROMAN TIME	JESUS TIME
<p>FIRST HOUR After a the chief priest prepares the altar (Lev 1:7; 6:1-6/8-13; Mishnah: Tamid 1:2), the first male lamb of the Tamid sacrifice is brought out and tied to the altar at dawn (Mishnah: Tamid 3:2-3:3)</p>	<p>DAWN-8AM The twice daily communal sacrifice of the Tamid is the focus of religious life for the covenant people (Ex 29:38-42; Num 28:4-8). It is the only sacrifice other than the Feast of Firstfruits or the Sabbath that requires a single male lamb for the liturgical service. The Sabbath requires a male lamb in addition to the Tamid lamb for each of the two Sabbath services (Num 28:9-10)</p>	<p>FIRST HOUR And they led Jesus to the high priest....And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. (Mark 14:53; 15:1)</p>
<p>SECOND HOUR</p>	<p>8-9AM</p>	
<p>THIRD HOUR The first Tamid lamb is sacrificed [Mishnah: Tamid 3:7; Edersheim, <i>The Temple</i>, chapter 7, p. 108]</p>	<p>9-10AM The Temple gates open for the communal "Shacharit" (morning) prayer service (Acts 2:15) at the start of the 3rd hour. Individual morning prayer may be recited until noon (Mishnah 4:1)</p>	<p>THIRD HOUR And it was the third hour when they crucified him. (Mark 15:25)</p>
<p>FOURTH HOUR</p>	<p>10-11AM</p>	
<p>FIFTH HOUR</p>	<p>11-12PM</p>	
<p>SIXTH HOUR The second lamb is brought out and tied to the altar at high noon. [Mishnah: Tamid 4:1]</p>	<p>NOON -1PM The second Tamid lamb is given a drink from a gold cup and is tied to the altar until the time of sacrifice.</p>	<p>SIXTH HOUR And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. (Mark 15:33)</p>
<p>SEVENTH HOUR</p>	<p>1-2PM</p>	
<p>EIGHTH HOUR</p>	<p>2-3PM</p>	
<p>NINTH HOUR The second Tamid lamb is sacrificed [<i>Antiquities of the Jews</i> 14.4.3 (14:65); Philo <i>Special Laws</i> 1, XXXV (169)]</p>	<p>3-4PM 3PM is the second hour of prayer [Acts 3:1; 10:9] "Minchah" (gift-offering); also called the hour of confession.</p>	<p>NINTH HOUR And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"... And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.... And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he</p>

- The answer is not being perfect but being FAITHFUL! Are we willing to allow the Holy Spirit to transform our lives because we are faithful and will let Him work on us? David was...
 - 2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18 records some of David's final words on earth. One particular passage always catches my eye. Turn with me to 2 Samuel 22:21-25:
 - ²¹ *"The Lord dealt with me according to my righteousness;
according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.*
 - ²² *For I have kept the ways of the Lord
and have not wickedly departed from my God.*
 - ²³ *For all his rules were before me,
and from his statutes I did not turn aside.*
 - ²⁴ *I was blameless before him,
and I kept myself from guilt.*
 - ²⁵ *And the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness,
according to my cleanness in his sight.*
 - What??? At the end of his life, is David so arrogant to think that he earned his way to God by being righteous and blameless before God?
 - ²⁶ *"With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;*
 - ²⁷ *with the purified you deal purely,
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.*
 - ²⁸ *You save a humble people,
but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down.*
 - ²⁹ *For you are my lamp, O Lord,
and my God lightens my darkness.*
 - ³⁰ *For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.*
 - ³¹ *This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.*
 - ³² *"For who is God, but the Lord?
And who is a rock, except our God?*
 - ³³ *This God is my strong refuge
and has made my way blameless.*
- David didn't consider himself righteous and blameless by his own merit. He humbly understood where it came from, GOD! Because he recognized God's faithfulness to him, he wanted to remain faithful to God (even in his imperfection before him).
- So, faithfulness, remaining true to God, keeping your eyes bent toward God rather than the world. These are Paul's thoughts when he says to Timothy, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* (2 Timothy 4:7) At the end of David's life and Paul's life (two

- murders), they both claimed remaining true and faithful to God to the end. Not leading perfect lives, but faithful ones.
- Too often, I believe we try to focus our lives too much on being perfect rather than being faithful. The Pharisees struggled with this too. They worked so very hard (in the love and zeal for God) to be right all the time and do exactly what God told them.
 - **But in seeking perfection, we often miss the perfect!** Only God is perfect, and only He can perfect us in our faithfulness toward Him. I know that the message on my tombstone could never read "PERFECT", but I would love it if it said, "FAITHFUL"!
 - So, this sinful David ends up being used as the "golden standard" of being a king of Israel. Why not Solomon? Solomon was the wisest of the kings, the wealthiest, the most well-known in all the earth. Why wouldn't he trump David as the golden standard? I think we know the answer: FAITHFULNESS!
 - Again, at the end of his life, David calls his son to him and says this, *"I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, that the Lord may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"*
 - David is trying to pass on this characteristic of FAITHFULNESS to his son. And he does. You see Solomon's faithfulness in what he asked God for. Take a look in 1 Kings 3:5-9, *"At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?'"*
 - Solomon was humble before God and wanted to live in faithfulness to God and to lead God's people. He knew he needed God's wisdom to do it.
 - So, what happened?
 - 1 Kings 11:4 – *For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.*

- Solomon allowed himself to get distracted...
 - Distractions are the enemy to faithfulness! Satan knows that if he can just take our eyes off Jesus for a moment, then he might be able to lead us back toward ourselves and away from God. Scary thing is that all the while, we believe we are heading toward God. If he can just distract us with trying to be perfect, good, right; then we might lose sight of simply being faithful.
- Sex and our sexuality can become distractions. They did to David and to Solomon. They both found themselves in sin due to their sex drives, or predispositions.
 - Solomon in particular allowed his relationships to pull his heart away from God and not be wholly devoted to him. His devotion went from God to another god. More on that next session...
- However, we are living in freedom. We are no longer slaves to sin but slaves of God, instruments of righteousness. As Paul told the Roman church (6:15-23)...

¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Like the song goes, "I'm no longer a slave to sin, I am a child of God!" So, our desire has changed us, transformed us. Our affections have shifted from self to God.
 - THERE IS HOPE!

IDOLATRY & SEXUALITY – THE ROOT OF SEXUAL DEVIANCE

SYNOPSIS...

What is idolatry? *Idolatry is giving your love, loyalty, and faithfulness to someone or something other than God (who alone deserves these attributes).* The tendency of the human heart is to take good things and turn them into ultimate things. We experience some moment of joy with them and then come to believe that they are then the source of that joy. We in turn

deify them and put them at the center of our hearts, believing they can bring us that same joy and fulfillment continually. The world has turned sexuality into a god, using it in a way God didn't intend. We have confused sex with love and focused our attention on the created rather than the creator. So, how do we redirect our love and attention? How do we move from idol to God in order to experience true holiness?

LESSON...

- The tendency of the human heart is to take good things and turn them into ultimate things. We experience some moment of joy with them and then come to believe that they are then the source of that joy. We in turn deify them and put them at the center of our hearts, believing they can bring us that same joy and fulfillment continually. The world has turned sexuality into a god, using it in a way God didn't intend. We have confused sex with love and focused our attention on the created rather than the creator. So, how do we redirect our love and attention? How do we move from idol to God in order to experience true holiness?
- **What is idolatry?**
 - Loving the created vs. The Creator!
 - How would you define idolatry?
 - Martin Luther: "whatever your heart clings to and relies upon, that is your god; trust and faith of the heart alone make both God and idol."
 - ***Idolatry is giving your love, loyalty, and faithfulness to someone or something other than God (who alone deserves these attributes).***
 - An idol is something we can't live without. We have to be with it, have it, possess it. To get it we will sacrifice our time, money, possessions, etc. to be with it or have it.
 - ANYTHING or ANYONE can become an idol/god!
 - We make our gods when we say in our hearts, "If I have THAT, then my life will have meaning and I'll know I have value. With THAT I will find my significance and will feel ultimately secure and fulfilled."
 - ***The idol is not inherently evil; it is the devotion we place upon it that distorts God's original intent for us.***
 - The primary problem with idolatry is that it distorts the difference between the Creator and the created.
 - We see this best when we discover how sin first entered this world.
 - The original sin. What was it? Eating the fruit was a symptom of the actual sin, not the sin itself. THE SIN WAS THE DESIRE TO "BE LIKE GOD!" (Genesis 3:4-5)
 - The crazy thing is, we already were. How were we created? In the image and likeness of God.
 - We really only have two options of "gods" to serve. **ONE: GOD! TWO: OURSELVES!**

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- True worship always focuses on God, Idolatry always focuses on self.
- God understood this tendency (sinful nature, or predisposition) within us. That is why the first two commandments focus on idolatry.
 - Exodus 20:1-6 – *And God spoke all these words, saying, ²“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³“You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*
 - No other gods
 - No idols
 - Why does God start with these commandments?
 - He recognizes that we are prone to wander after another god (self) and then make idols to worship.
 - Recognize the language in verse 4: “image” and “likeness”
 - God knew that the people believed that the presence of the deity lived in some part in the idol. Wherever those idols were, the god was said to be.
 - Again, how were we created? WE were created in God’s “image” and “likeness”. We are representations of God who are meant to reflect Him and His glory wherever WE are.
 - When we substitute our intended purpose with created images and likenesses, we replace the Creator with our own creation (with ourselves).
 - Romans 1:25 – *“they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!”*
- **How do we know what we our idol/god is?**
 - 3 Questions Litmus test for our true god:
 - **What do you love most?**
 - **What do you obey most?**
 - **What do you remember most?**
- WE BECOME WHAT WE WORSHIP: *“⁴Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ⁵They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. ⁶They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. ⁷They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. ⁸Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.”* (Psalm 115:4-8)

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- If we return to Romans 1:25 for a moment, we discover that the preceding verse (24) identifies the idol/god they had created, *"Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves..."* The succeeding verse (26) says, *"For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions."*
 - The Romans and the Corinthians idolized love and sex. Sound familiar?
- Idolizing Love and Sex
 - **We all want to be loved!**
 - All of us desire love. God put it into our DNA. However, that love is meant to find true fulfillment in God alone. Yet, we often find ourselves looking to fulfill our desire for love in all the wrong places. We search for people to fill our love tanks.
 - So, most of us search to fill our love tanks with our romantic relationships and through sexual relations. In doing so, we often make that pursuit of love and sex in an individual and idolatrous relationship. We can make our romantic love, sex, and marriages into our idols/gods.
 - We know that love and sex has become an idol when it leads us to:
 - Break promises (specifically to God)
 - Rationalize indiscretions with that person
 - Betray other relationships or allegiances in order to hold on to it
 - Violate good and proper boundaries
 - Become slaves to the relationship
 - When we do this, it becomes very easy for us to mistake love and sex for God. The love, rather than God, becomes our fulfillment and it is what we rest our hopes, dreams, and happiness on.
 - The Beatles spoke to this sort of idolatry in their song, "All You Need is Love." Listen to the lyrics:

Love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love.
There's nothing you can do that can't be done.
Nothing you can sing that can't be sung.
Nothing you can say, but you can learn
How to play the game
It's easy.
Nothing you can make that can't be made.
No one you can save that can't be saved.
Nothing you can do, but you can learn
How to be you in time
It's easy.

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*All you need is love, all you need is love,
All you need is love, love. Love is all you need.
Love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love.
All you need is love, all you need is love,
All you need is love, love. Love is all you need.
There's nothing you can know that isn't known.
Nothing you can see that isn't shown.
There's nowhere you can be that isn't where
You're meant to be
It's easy.
All you need is love, all you need is love,
All you need is love, love. Love is all you need.
All you need is love. (All together now).
All you need is love. (Everybody).
All you need is love, love. Love is all you need.
Love is all you need.
Love is all you need*

- Based on these lyrics, everything rests on love. Knowledge, life, direction, fulfillment, self-discovery, and even salvation is all found in love. Funny thing is, there is some truth to it when we properly define love. However, love as defined by the world will always lead to emptiness in the end.
- **Love is NOT all you need, GOD IS!!!** Yet, when properly defined, we come to know what Scripture teaches us: GOD IS LOVE! Let's dig into this concept...
- **Confusing Love with Sex – Jacob's Love, Idol**
 - After Jacob had received the blessing from Isaac, his father sent him off to get a wife from Rebekah's brother, Laban. Isaac did not want him to find a wife from among the Hittites as Esau had. On his journey, Jacob has a dream and encounters God. He makes a vow to God that demonstrates his conditional love for God at this specific moment in his faith journey.
 - Read Gen. 28:18-22
 - Jacob's heart (love) was not fully devoted to the God of his father, Isaac yet. His faith and love for God was inherited, but not yet owned. This plays a big part into his coming struggle.
 - Jacob enters the home of Laban and begins working for him. But he finds himself smitten with one of Laban's daughters. Let's read...
 - Read Gen. 29:15-21
 - The text here shows us how absorbed Jacob was with Rachel
 - He committed 7 years of labor for her (an enormous price for a bride)
 - But the years seemed like days (v. 20)

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- He was so enamored by Rachel that he couldn't see through Laban's veiled response. Laban never said "yes." Look at his response (read verse 19)
 - Jacob wanted to hear "yes" so he heard "yes."
 - He was so blind with "love" that he didn't consider that it was customary for the older sister to marry before the younger. He didn't care, he just wanted Rachel.
- When they were through all he wanted to do was take her as his wife and have sex with her. This Hebrew phrase is very graphic and sexual. Essentially he said to Laban, "I can't wait any longer to have sex with your daughter. Give her to me now!"
- Jacob was overwhelmed with an emotional and sexual longing for Rachel that he had allowed to consume him for seven years.
 - He was so drunk on "love" that he didn't even know that he had laid with the wrong woman. Read Gen. 29:25!
- Why did Jacob focus on this and allow it to consume him?
 - Because his love was an empty love focused on a person.
 - Think about it this way:
 - Jacob was never had his father's love (Isaac loved Esau – Gen. 25:28)
 - Jacob lost his mother's love as he was separated from her
 - Jacob had not yet come to know God's love and care (Gen. 28:18-22)
 - Jacob came to believe that Rachel could finally be a source of something good in his life. So, he fixed himself on her and waited seven years to receive the love he had always wanted. In his mind, when he finally got her all things would be fixed in his life.
 - Jacob, like so many others, focused all the longings of his heart for meaning and affirmation on Rachel.
- When God is not the focus of our love, then what choice do we have? People then become the focus of our love and we expect that they will fulfill all our deep-seeded needs for meaning and affirmation.
- If you listen to secular music and watch television and movies you will find this sentiment. After all, if there is no God, then we must fill that need for love and intimacy somewhere else.
 - We hold on to the idea that if we find our true soul mate, then everything wrong in our lives will be healed.
 - The truth is, that is true. However, no human being can ever be our soul mate. We are created to have only one soul mate: GOD!

- When we place these expectations of love and fulfillment on a human being, then we are placing upon them **God-like expectations** that **THEY CAN NEVER FULFILL!**
 - Only God was meant to fill them. Then, when they fail to meet those expectations, we then question if we are really “in love” with them and quit and move onto the next person requiring of them the same God-like expectations. It is a vicious cycle of idolatry and the only solution is to find fulfillment is in God as LOVE!
- We might look at Jacob and go, “Poor sap. What is his problem? Why was he so gullible?” But we have to realize that when the love of someone other than God becomes our idol, then it becomes our addiction.
- Funny thing is, what we call **addiction**, God calls **idolatry!**
 - Our emptiness inside and fears of never being loved will make “love” a narcotic. And so, “love” becomes the way in which we “medicate” ourselves and when that happens, like addicts, we will make foolish and destructive choices in our lives.
 - When this happens, our “loved ones” are not just our spouse or romantic interest, but they become our “savior” and only one was meant to fill that role!
 - You ever heard the statement, “He/She worships the ground she/he walks on”? Makes more sense now, doesn't it?
- **Going to bed with Rachel, but waking up to Leah (Unfulfilled Expectations) – Leah's Love, Idol**
 - The crazy twist in this story is Leah. Poor Leah! She was thrown into a loveless marriage and like Jacob, longed to be loved.
 - Leah is described as having weak eyes. Now, this doesn't mean that she couldn't see (especially in context). Instead, it either means she was cross-eyed or that she was just flat ugly as compared to Rachel's beauty.
 - Laban knew that, due to Leah's unattractiveness, no suitors were going to come calling soon (no arranged marriage in sight). So, when he saw Jacob's deep attraction to Rachel, he saw opportunity.
 - Arranged marriages meant the father gained the payment (a substantial gift) from the suiter for the bride's hand. The fact that Leah was not wanted due to her unseemliness meant that he would maintain the financial obligation of caring for her without making anything off her. He probably thought to himself, “I can kill two birds with one stone here and get double my money.”
 - So, Leah leaves a father who doesn't want/love her to become the wife of a husband who doesn't love her.
 - Crazy thing is that Leah had a deep hole in her heart that was comparable to the hole that Jacob had in his, but he was so love-struck with Rachel that he couldn't recognize Leah's pain.
 - Leah was the girl nobody wanted!

- Leah, like Jacob, focused her "love" on the wrong person and desired to make Jacob love her somehow, someday.
 - Read Gen. 29:31-35
 - **"Now my husband will love me." (v. 32)**
 - **"God heard I am hated." (v. 33)**
 - **"Now my husband will be attached to me." (v. 34)**
 - **"This time I will praise the Lord." (v. 35)**
 - Interesting that it is through this line the true Savior of the world comes. Just by chance?
- Sadly, the story of Jacob and Leah teaches us a valuable lesson about the idol/god of "love." No matter what who we put our hopes in (beyond God), in the morning we *always find Leah, not Rachel*. (NO disrespect to Leah)
 - No person can fill your soul. Only God can do that. To put on them the weight of these God-like expectations will ultimately weigh them down and leave you wanting. When that happens, you are going to go to bed thinking you are lying with Rachel, but will wake up to Leah. This disillusionment/disappointment is unfair to place on those we love. It is not their fault, it is ours. We have placed the wrong sort of focus on them that should have been placed on someone else: GOD!
- Fortunately, Leah came to her senses and turned to God. It appears that she finally took her heart's deepest desires off Jacob and placed them on God. Through her, the Savior of the world would come. Through her, the unloved, God demonstrates the full extent of His love. Leah discovered that God is the true bridegroom.
 - Consider this the way Paul describes it.
 - Read Ephesians 5:22-33.
 - Love is all we need? Well, if we define love as GOD, then yes! Because God is love. When we see Him, through Jesus, as our only true bridegroom, then we will truly find fulfillment. In that light we can love others as we have been loved by God. And that is **CRAZY LOVE!!!**
 - Read 1 John 4:7-12
 - PRAISE GOD for HIS LOVE!!! Seek love, but in GOD ALONE!
- **From Hornyness to Holiness**
 - Again, our desire is GOD ALONE! We want Him to take these sinful selves and make them holy before Him. That a process of moving from Hornyness to Holiness (pardon my crudeness, but its true). Let's again look at Romans 6:15-23...
 - ¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to

more lawlessness, **so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.**

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you **get leads to sanctification** and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- In order for this to happen in our lives, we have to give control over to God. As the Psalmists write...
 - Psalm 19:13 – *Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.*
 - Psalm 119:133 – *Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.*
 - Only through God and His Spirit working through us can we find self-control (a fruit of the Spirit). Only then can we walk in step with the Spirit instead of according to the flesh.
- We have to stop blaming and excusing away our behavior. We have to stop blaming females for our stumbling block or excusing our sin by saying we didn't mean to. Instead we must begin to truly allow the Spirit of God to sanctify us (make us holy) from the inside out.
- How do we, as a group of men and the church respond to those caught in sexual idolatry.
 - Loving vs. Shaming – We must first approach with a stance of love over shame, even when they have experienced sexual misconduct.
 - Can we love others even when they have been the perpetrator or victim of sexual deviance?
 - We must provide others with HOPE!

SEXUAL IDOLS

SYNOPSIS...

This session will focus on the different ways we have made sexuality an idol. We will look at varying topics and how we can be holy (set apart) in an unholy world. We will discuss how each of these take hold of us, how the world has twisted them, and how we can move toward holiness in spite of what the world tells us. This will be a very open session with opportunity to discuss and battle through these issues.

LESSON...

- This session will focus on the different ways we have made sexuality an idol. As we look at these various sexual idols, how we can be holy (set apart) in an unholy world? I want us to look at and discuss how each of these take hold of us, how the world has twisted them, what the Bible says about them, and how we can move toward holiness in spite of what

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the world tells us. This will be a very open session with a lot of discussion and opportunity to battle through these issues together.

- **Sexual Idols:** What are some of the sexual idols we struggle with? What does the Bible say about these? (Have everyone get into groups to search and share what the Bible says)
 - Lust
 - Masturbation
 - Pornography
 - Sexual Addictions
 - Gender and Sexual Identity
 - Adultery
- Providing the way out, resources
 - Go over **Hope for the Heart – Sexual Addiction** Document
 - **SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION = Name** (name where you are most unChristlike as the Spirit has revealed to you) + **Claim** (claim that you own that unChristlikeness and want it taken from you) + **Reframe** (reframe your desires, passions, affections, and devotions toward God alone) + **Change** (change your ways, no longer live in the old self that is corrupt, but put on Christ with the new self)
- Accountability, who's your Jonathan?
- If sexual deviance has destroyed a marriage, can we get a good marriage back? (New Beginnings marriage seminars)
- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8