

# Sexual Sin

**TGI Biblical Counseling and Discipleship  
Marriage and Premarriage Class**

April 10, 2017  
Women's Track

**THE GOSPEL  
INSTITUTE**

# Definition of Sin

1. God's standard for man is **holiness**. "*Be ye holy, for I am holy...*" (Lev.19:2; Matt. 5:48)
2. The failure to meet God's holy standard is sin. (Rom. 3:23) "*For there is no man that sinneth<sup>6</sup> not*" (1 Ki. 8:46)
3. Sin is breaking any commandment of God. "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth<sup>1</sup> also the law: for sin is the transgression<sup>2</sup> of the law.*" (1 Jn. 3:4)
4. "All unrighteousness is sin:" (1 Jn. 5:17)
5. "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin." James 4:17

# Four Ways to Sin

# Trials vs. Temptations

1. Ja. 1:1-4 Trials come from God-orchestrated events to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Our focus in trials is to be on God's purpose in the trial \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We are to persevere in trial by asking God for wisdom and by focusing on the rewards.
4. A trial can lead to triumph or temptation...Temptations can come from external or internal sources.

# Trials May Lead to Temptation

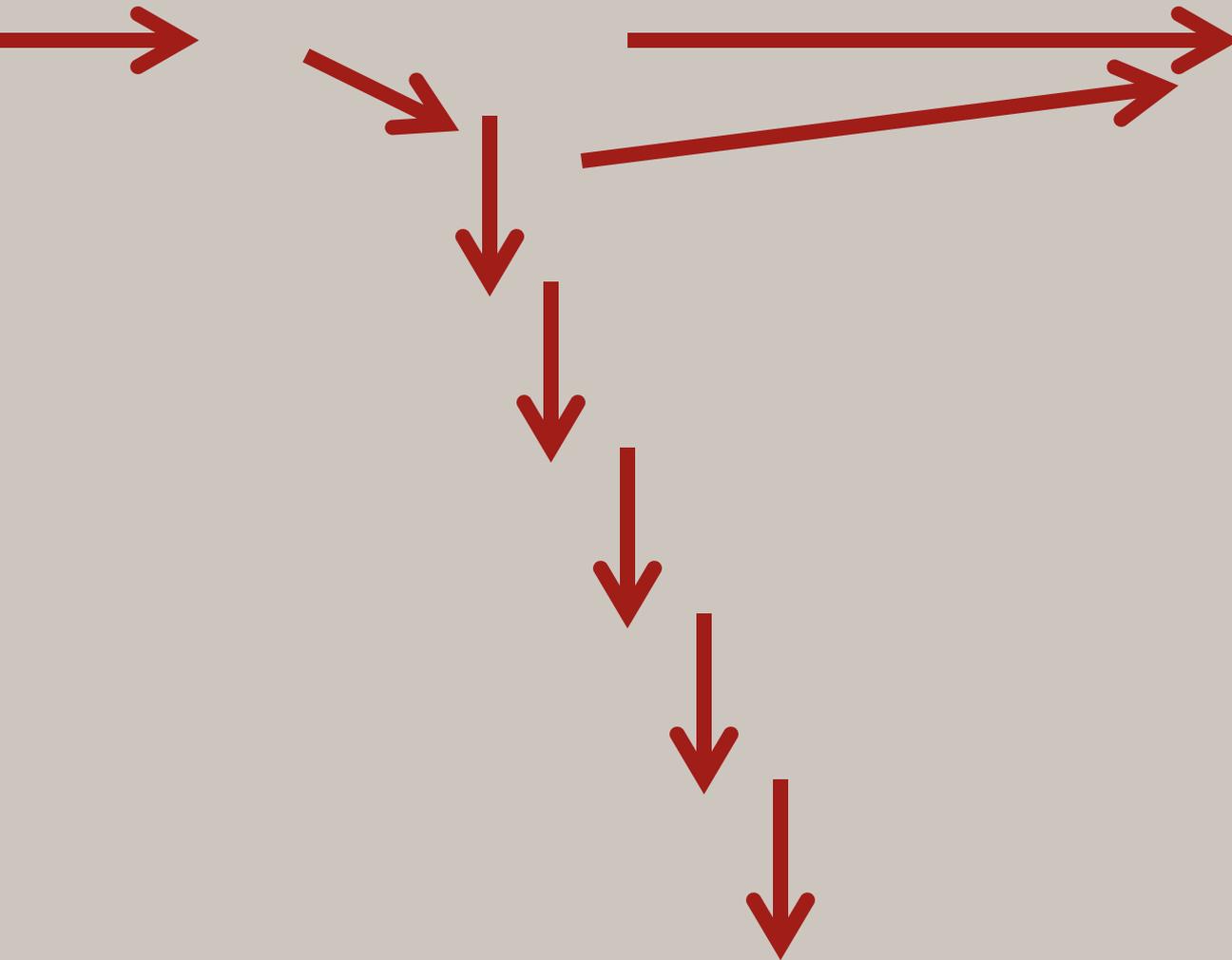
- Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under **trial**, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is **tempted** when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

(Jam. 1:12-15)

# Definition of Temptation

1. Temptation is a solicitation to evil or sin.
2. Temptations are our responsibility to resist, reject and overcome. (2 Cor. 5:10)
3. Temptation is a \_\_\_\_\_ to pursue a desire. (we do what we do, because we want what we want).
4. Although temptations may begin externally, the process cannot continue without our \_\_\_\_\_ to continue the progression.

# The Process of Temptation (Ja. 1:13-15)



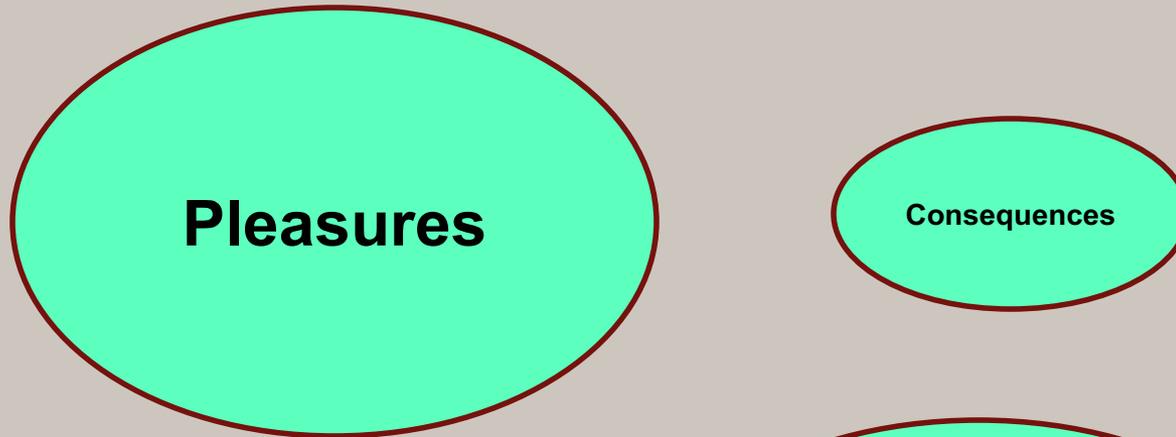
# Sin and Deception

1. The heart is **deceitful** above all things, and desperately sick; ... (Jer. 17:9) (Prov. 28:26)
2. to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through **deceitful desires**, (Eph. 4:22)
3. <sup>12</sup>Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. <sup>13</sup>But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the **deceitfulness of sin**. (Heb. 3:12-13)

# What is Your View of Consequences?

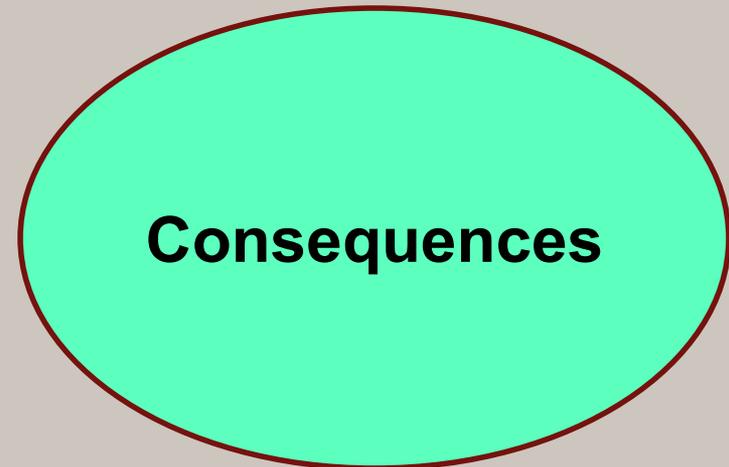
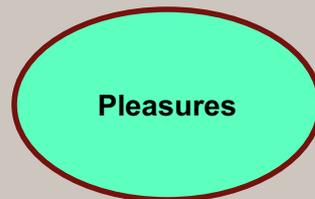
## Sinful View:

**Gal 6:7** Do not be deceived:  
God is not mocked, for whatever  
one sows, that will he also reap.



## Biblical View:

**Heb. 11:25**



# Consequences of Sexual Sin

1. **Prov. 5:3-4** The lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is **bitter wormwood**, sharp as a **two-edged sword**.
2. **Prov. 6:27-29** Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be **burned**... so is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; **none** who touches her will go **unpunished**.
3. **Prov. 6: 32** He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it **destroys himself**.
4. **Prov. 7: 21-23** With much seductive speech she persuades him...all at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast till an arrow pierces its liver...He does not know that it **will cost him his life**.

# Consequences of Sexual Sin

**5. 1 Cor. 6:18** Flee sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexual immoral person sins **against his own body**.

**6. Prov. 5:22** The iniquities of the wicked **ensnare** him, and he is **held fast** in the cords of his sin.

**7. Eph. 5:5-6** For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the **wrath of God** comes upon the sons of disobedience.

**Expression of the heart-worship**

**Love:** other-focused, selfless giving

1. Sexual sin is any attitude, view or participation in sex outside of the marriage relationship.
2. The fuel for sexual sin is the desire for that which is forbidden.
3. Overcoming sexual sin begins with transformed desires and views of sex.

**One-flesh unity, intimacy**

**Vows:** Covenant Commitment

## Sinful Desires

1. Sex is sinful when pleasures are sought apart from mutual consent and involvement of a husband and wife.
    - a. I am more concerned about pleasing myself than about loving and pleasing God. (2 Cor. 5:9)
    - b. I am more concerned about pleasing myself than about loving and serving others. (Phil. 2:3-4)
- “What causes quarrels and fights among you? Is it not your passions that are at war within you? You desire and you do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel...”
- (James 4:1-2)

# Sinful Desires

2. A battle rages between the desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit.

- “But I see in my members another law **waging war** against the **law of my mind** and making me captive to the **law of sin** that dwells in my members.” (Rom. 7:23)
- 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.(Gal. 5:17)

The Christian life involves us in an ongoing lifelong conflict...We may have given our whole lives to Christ, but it will take the rest of our lives to work that out in practice.

(Sinclair Ferguson in Devoted to God)

# Sinful Desires that Fuel Sexual Sin

1. Lust for **immediate gratification**
  - a. Without commitment
  - b. Without investing in intimate relationships
  - c. Without giving and serving another
2. Lust for **approval of others**
  - a. Desire to be attractive
  - b. Fear of man/Pride
3. Lust for **control**
  - a. Manipulating, using others

# Sinful Desires That Fuel Sexual Sin

## 4. Lust to be God

- a. Center of your universe
- b. No consequences
- c. No cause and effect
- d. No rules

## 5. Lust for intimacy

- a. emotional warmth
- b. close personal connection

## 6. Lust for love

## 7. Lust for security

# God's Will: Our Sexual Purity- 1 Thess. 4:3-8

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

1 Thess. 4:3

1. We are to each know how to control our own body in holiness and honor. (v. 4)
2. Living in the passion of lust is not consistent with who we are in Christ. It is characteristic of one who does not know God. (v. 5)
3. We wrong our brothers/sisters when we sin sexually. (v. 6)

## God's Will: Our Sexual Purity- 1 Thess. 4:3-8

4. God will avenge this wrong. We must take this warning seriously. (v. 6)
5. God has not called us to impurity, but in holiness. (v. 7)
6. If we disregard God's call to purity, we are disregarding, not man, but God himself. (v. 8)
7. God has given us His Spirit to enable us to please Him in this area of our lives. (v. 8)

# Gospel Provides Hope

## 1. We have a Sympathetic Savior

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:15-16)

- He understands our weaknesses.
- He has been tempted as we are.
- He has withstood temptation, so knows how to help us.
- He gives mercy and grace to help.

# The Gospel Provides Hope

2. Our sin is completely dealt with at the cross.

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Col. 2:13-14)

- We are made alive.
- We are forgiven all sin, even sexual sin.
- Our debt against God is cancelled.

# The Gospel Provides Hope

## 3. The Gospel provides hope for lasting change.

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 6:11)

- We are united to Christ.
- The Spirit gives us new desires and power to overcome sin.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16)

# Pursuing Obedience

## 1. Cultivate a cross-centered life, beginning with a biblical view:

- a. Embrace a biblical view of God (Isa. 40:10-11)
- b. The cross covers my sin.
  - Complete forgiveness and removal of sin
  - Removal of guilt and shame (Rom. 8:1)
  - Accepted by God on the basis of Christ's righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21, Heb. 10:14)
  - All barriers to fellowship are removed.
  - God walks with me through the consequences of sin. (Isa. 54:10)
  - God works all things for good. (Rom. 8:28)

# Pursuing Obedience

## 1. Cultivate a cross-centered life, beginning with a biblical view:

- c. The cross motivates me to love and obedience
  - Gratefulness for what God has done for me (Ephesians 1:3)
  - The cross shows the seriousness of sin. (Christ was punished for this sin.)
  - God's purpose for calling us is holiness, conformity to His Son. (1 Pet. 2:24-25, Rom. 8:29)

# Pursuing Obedience

## d. The cross empowers me to overcome sin.

God grounds His call to holiness in who He is and what He has done for us in the gospel through our union with Christ.

- We died to sin with Him.
- We have been raised with Him.
- We will be glorified with Him.
- In Him we are a new creation with a new identity.
- We have the Spirit who is at work in us to transform us into the image of Christ (Rom. 6, Col. 3:1-17, 1 Cor. 6:9-20)

# Pursuing Obedience

**Gospel logic says – Therefore:**

- I will put off those things associated with the old life.
- I will put on those things consistent with my new identity in Christ.

**This is Spirited-enabled effort, not will-power.  
This is hope-filled effort. (Heb. 13:20-21)**

*“The gospel, however, slays sin at its root point and thereby nullifies sin’s power over me” Milton Vincent, *A Gospel Primer*, p. 19*

# Pursuing Obedience

## 2. Sexual sin can be prevented and/or overcome through Christ.

- a. Seek pleasure and satisfaction in God. (Ps. 16:11, Ps. 63:1-8, Ps. 36:5-9)
- b. Guard Your heart and mind. (Prov. 4:23, Ps. 19:14)
  - Sexual sin begins in the heart. (Matt. 15:19)
  - Sexual sin begins in our mind with wrong thinking about sexuality.
  - We must renew our thinking with God's word as our source of truth. (Rom. 12:2)
  - Our desires must be transformed so that we value pleasing God above all else.

# Pursuing Obedience

## 2. Sexual sin can be prevented and/or overcome through Christ.

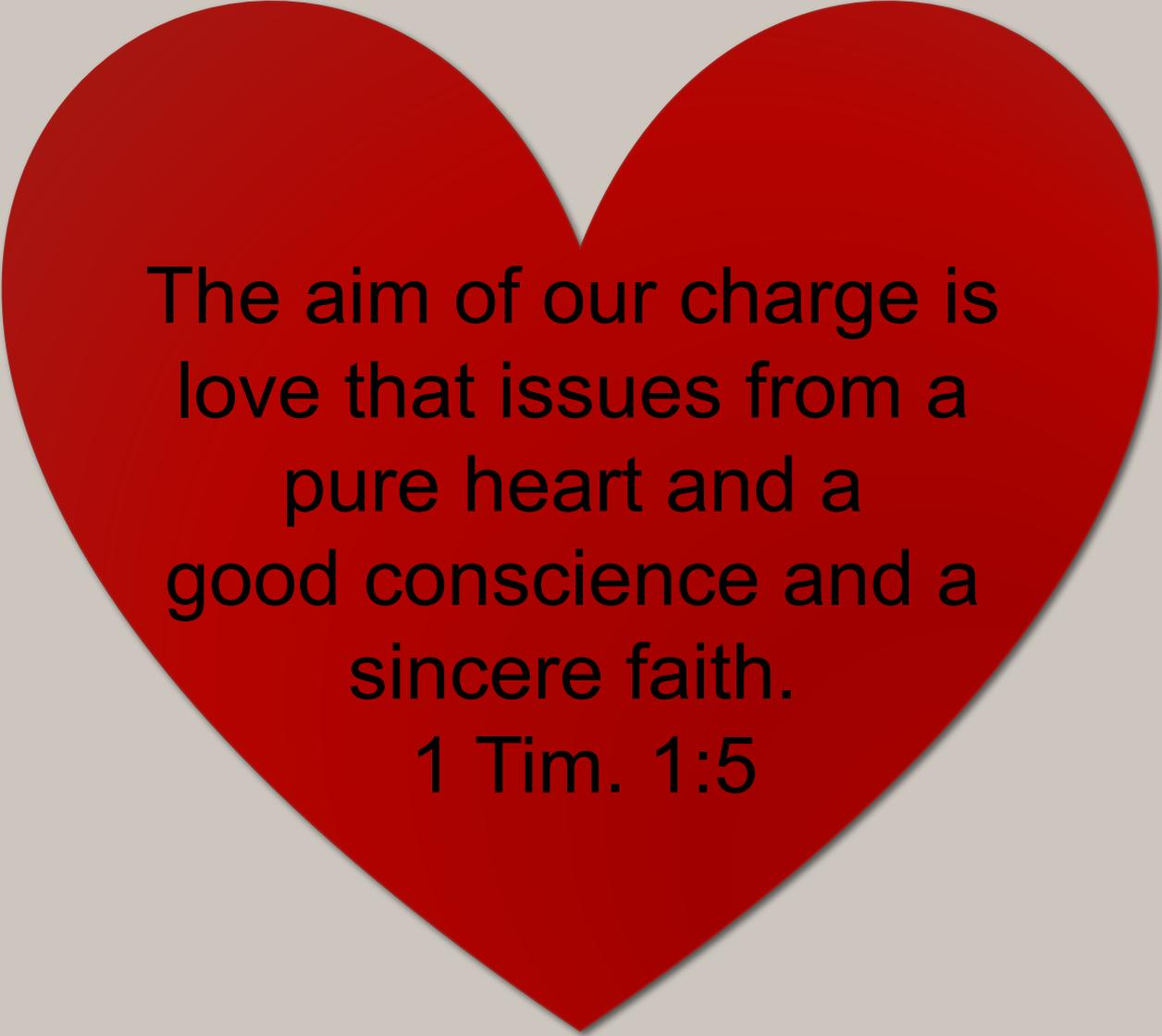
- c. Be watchful in the smallest matters and catch sin in its beginning stages.
  - God forbids even a hint. (Eph. 5:3)
  - Sin is progressive and will lead to greater sin, enslavement, and consequences.
- d. Develop a lifestyle of repentance
  - Repent- godly, not worldly (2 Cor. 7:10-13)
  - Confess (1 John 1:9)
  - Seek forgiveness and restoration
  - Review and rejoice in gospel truths

# Pursuing Obedience

## 2. Sexual sin can be prevented and/or overcome through Christ.

- e. Practice biblical put off/put ons (Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 3:5-17)
- f. Be prepared to practice **radical amputation**.
  - Sexual sin is serious and we must do whatever is necessary. (Matt. 5:29)
  - Biblical strategy: **AVOID** (Prov. 5:8)
  - Biblical strategy: **FLEE** (1 Cor. 6:18)
- g. Accountability (James 5:16)

# Pursuing Purity



The aim of our charge is  
love that issues from a  
pure heart and a  
good conscience and a  
sincere faith.

1 Tim. 1:5

# Next Semester

- June 12<sup>th</sup> – Summer Semester of TGI Biblical Counseling and Discipleship Begins
- If you've already registered, you are fine. If you are interested and have not registered go to:  
[peoriagospelinstitute.org](http://peoriagospelinstitute.org)