

Sexual Sin

Discussion for Men

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THE GOSPEL
INSTITUTE

Overview of Dealing with Sexual Sin

1. Seek to honor God and be respectful to others
2. Exposure to sexuality can't be avoided in our culture.
3. You need to learn how to think biblically about sex, sin, temptation and obedience. (2 Cor. 10:3-5)
4. You are called...
 - a. to speak truth to edify others (Eph. 4:12-17)
 - b. to exhort one-another (Heb.3:12-13)
 - c. to restore (Gal. 6:1-2).
5. You are equipped to...
 - a. Overcome temptations (1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 9:8)
 - b. To effective one-anothering (2 Tim. 3:14-17)

Sexual Sin brings Severe Consequences

¹Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (1Thess. 4:1-8)

Sin is Universal & Undeniable

1. God's standard 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. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Rom. 3:23) "For there is no man that sinneth⁶ not" (1 Ki. 8:46)
3. Sin is breaking any commandment of God. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth¹ also the law: for sin is the transgression² of the law." (1 Jn. 3:4)
4. "All unrighteousness is sin:" (1 Jn. 5:17)

Four Ways to Sin

Culpability for sin in four dimensions	Omission (Neglecting the law)	Commission (Breaking the law)
Presumptuous (Willful / Rebellious)	<i>I know I should, but refuse to obey</i>	<i>I know I shouldn't, but I disobey</i>
Ignorant (Not knowing the law)	Don't know; don't obey	Don't know; disobey

How Trials Relate to Temptations

1. Trials come from God-orchestrated events to _____ . (Ja. 1:12; 1Pet. 4:12)
2. Our focus in trials is to be on God's purpose in the trial- _____ (Ja. 1:2-4).
3. We are to persevere in trials, asking for wisdom and focusing on the rewards (Ja. 1:5,12).
4. A trial can lead to temptation.
5. Temptations can come from external or internal sources.

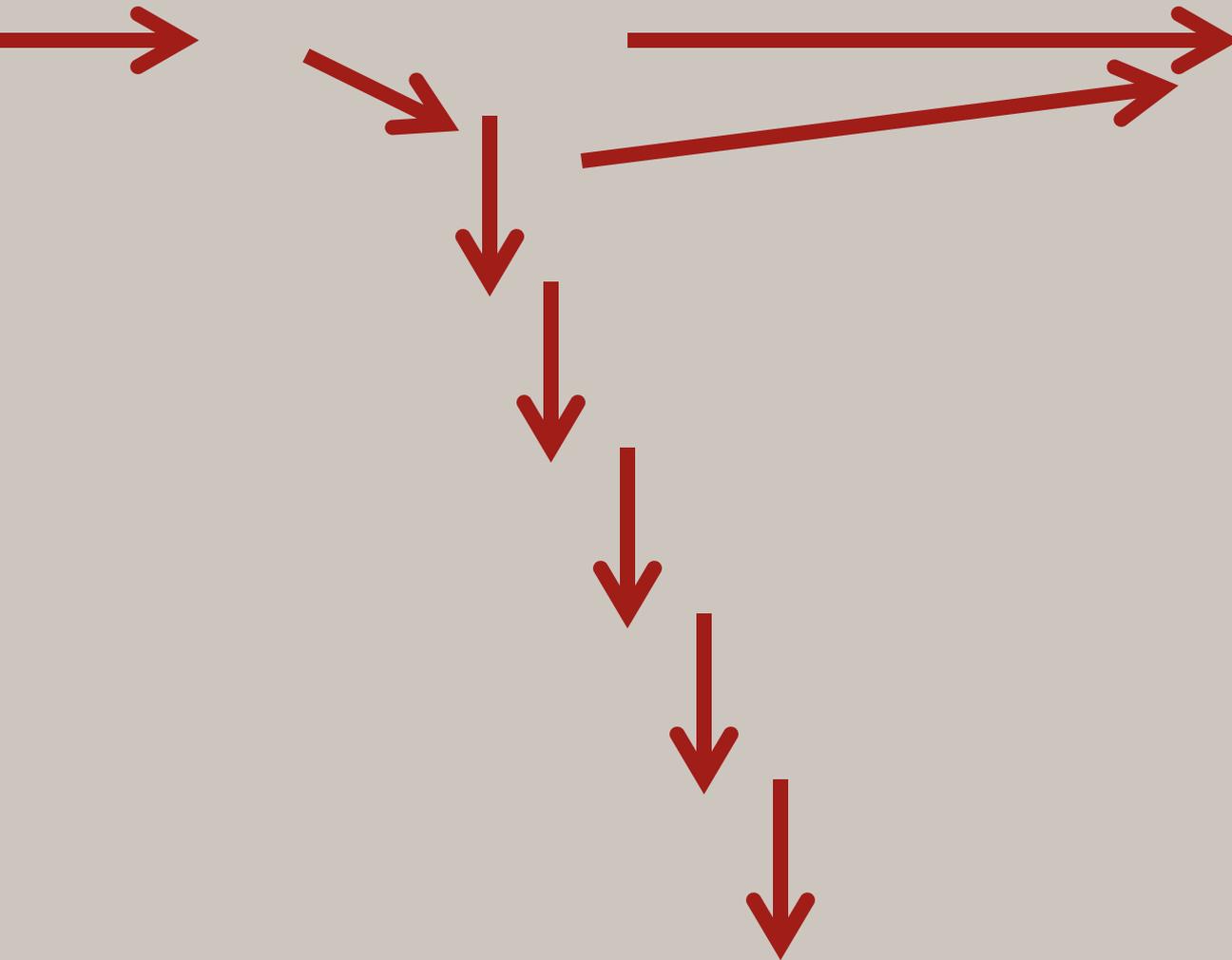
Trials May Lead to Temptation

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. (Ja. 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 (1 Pet. 1:3-5; 4:1-12; Gen. 4:7b).
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.

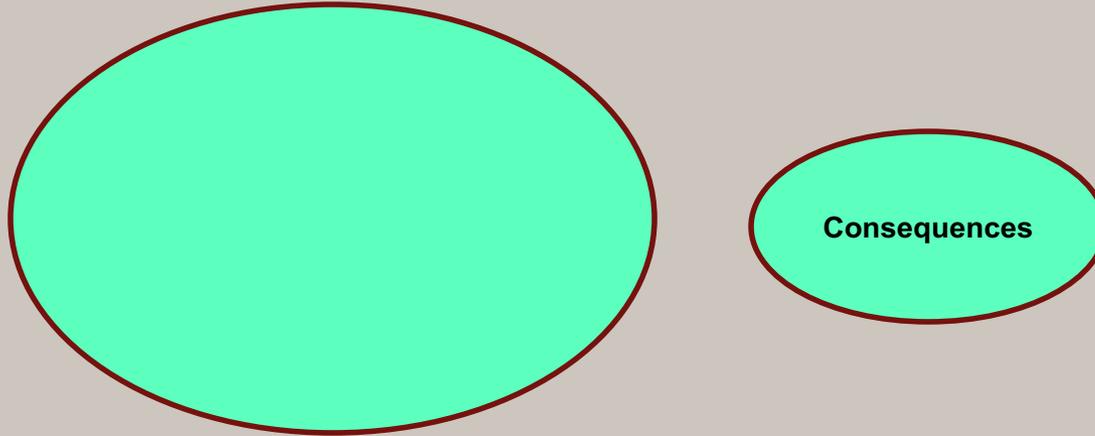
The Process of Temptation (Ja. 1:13-15)



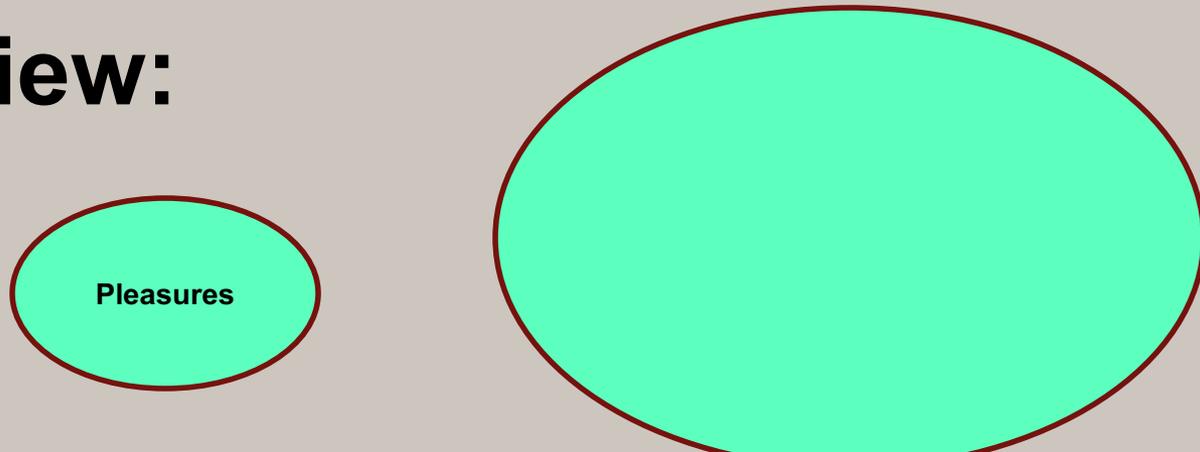
What is Your View of Consequences?

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

Sinful View:



Biblical View:



Sin Deceives

1. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; ... (Jer. 17:9)
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. ¹²Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³But 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)

Expression of the heart-worship

Love: other-focused, selfless giving

1. Sexual sin is any view of, attitude towards, or participation in sex outside of the biblical framework of marriage.
2. The motivation towards sexual sin is selfish greed, or the selfish desire to get what is forbidden.
3. Sexual sin is rooted in a distorted view of the purpose of sex, the source of pleasure and the resulting consequences.
4. Sexual sin deceives, enslaves and controls.

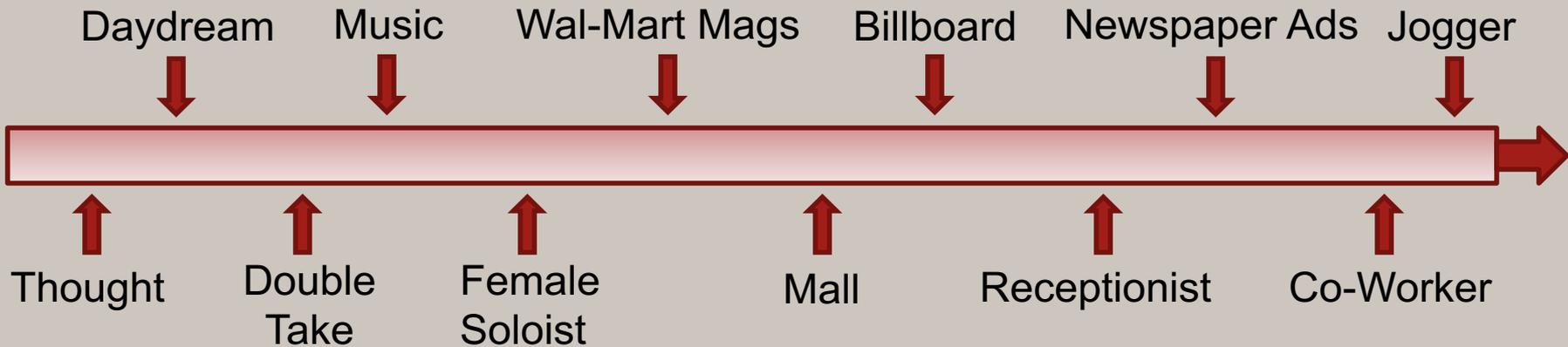
One-flesh unity, intimacy

Vows: Covenant Commitment

Sexual Sin and Sinful Desire (Greed)

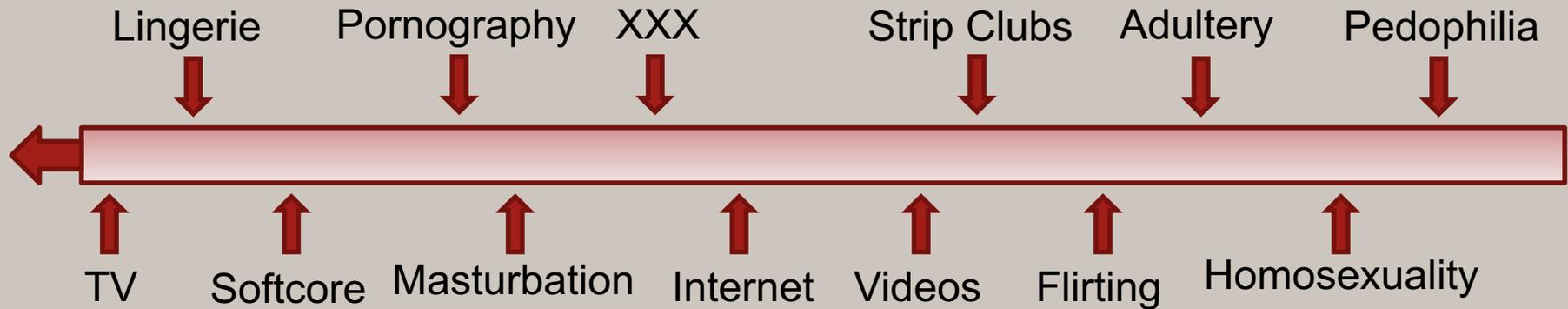
1. Sex is sinful when pleasures are sought apart from mutual consent and involvement of a husband and wife.
2. “But I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.” (Rom. 7:23)
3. For the desires of the flesh are 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 Spectrum of Sexual Sin



Lust → spirals out of control

The Spectrum of Sexual Sin



Lust → spirals out of control

The Gospel Provides Hope

- 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)
- 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)

The Gospel Gives Power to Change

1. that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, (1 Thess. 4:4).
2. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16).
3. 1 Cor. 6:9-20

The Gospel Provides Power to Change

1. Lust to be God
 - a. Center of your universe
 - b. No consequences
 - c. No cause and effect
 - d. No rules
 - e. Controlling situations
 - f. Manipulating & using others for selfish gratification

The Gospel Provides Power to Change

2. Lust for immediate gratification
 - a. Without commitment
 - b. Without investing in intimate relationships
 - c. Without giving and serving another
3. Fear of man/Pride
 - a. Lust for approval of others
 - b. Desire to be attractive
 - c. Fear of inadequacy or intimacy

Pursuing Obedience

1. Cultivate a cross-centered life, beginning with a biblical view):
 - a. Embrace a biblical view of God
 - b. The cross covers my sin
 - c. The cross motivates me to love and obedience
 - d. The cross is relevant to my everyday life
 - e. The cross is something I really should think about
 - f. “Nothing but Christ should master us”¹
 - g. “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. Not even a hint of sexual immorality (Eph. 5:3).
- b. Choosing to connect my sin to the cross (Col. 2:14).
- c. Choosing radical amputation (Mt. 5:29).
- d. Choosing to pursue restoration:
 - i. Choosing repentance (Godly, not worldly)
 - ii. Choosing confession
 - iii. Choosing to seek forgiveness
 - iv. Choosing to diligently guard my heart and mind (Pr. 4:23; Ps. 19:14)
- e. Choosing accountability (Ja. 5:16).

Put off Greed

1. Immorality, impurity stem from greedy desire for what is immoral or impure. (paraphrase)
2. “Greed [idolatry] wants what it does not have”.
3. “Greedy lust...perverts desire either in *degree* or in *direction*. (author’s emphasis)
4. Greed perverts desire in degree when you want a good thing too much”.
5. “Greed perverts desire in direction when you want things you shouldn’t want or you want to satisfy your desire in a wrong way.”

From H. Lambert, *Finally Free*, p. 125

Put off Greed, Put on Thanksgiving

God forbids greed, covetousness, lust, sinful desires.

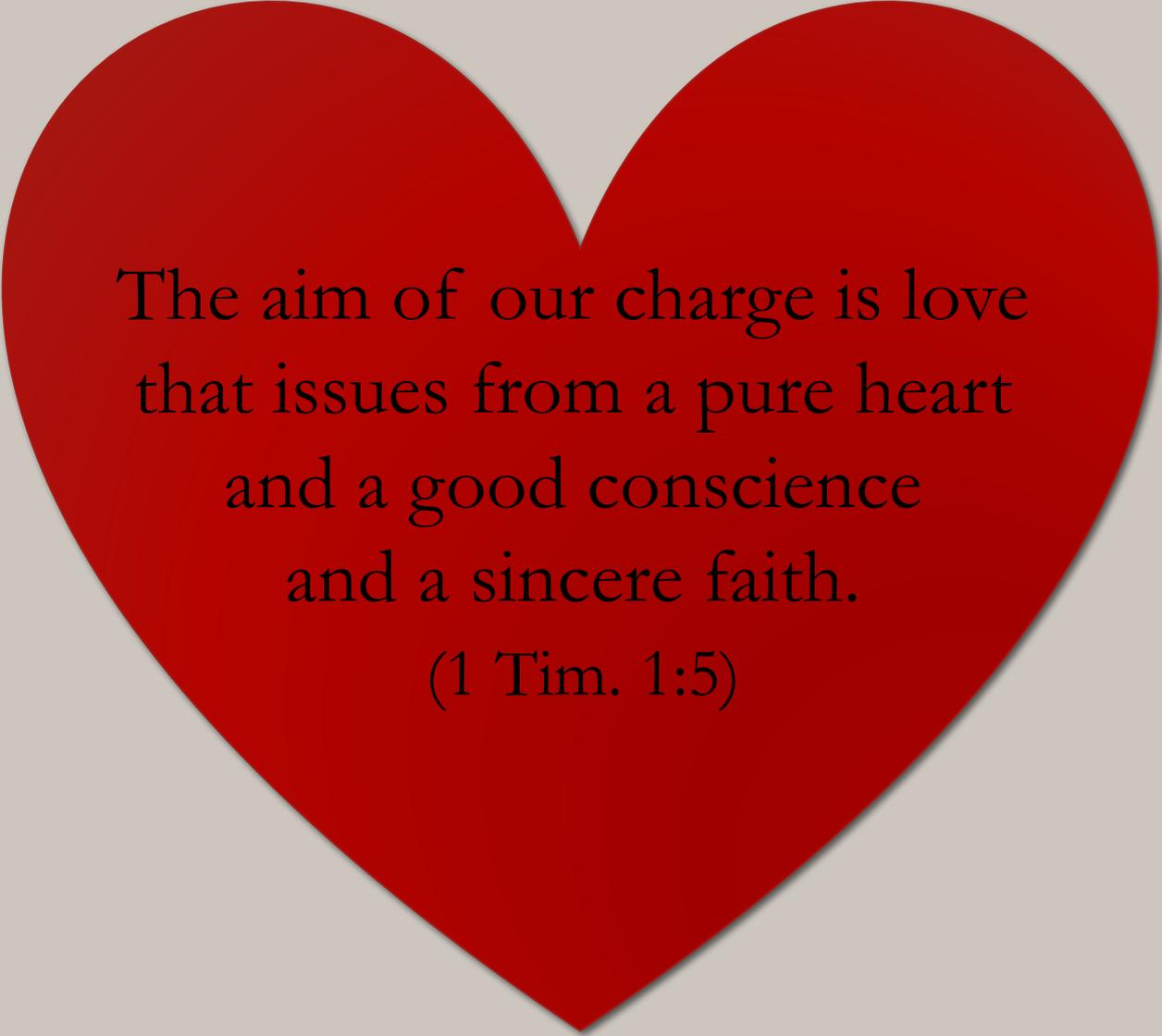
6. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Col. 3:5)
7. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness [greed] must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. (Eph. 5:3)

Put off Greed, Be Spirit-controlled

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (Col. 3:12-15)

This is nothing more or less than the fruit of the Spirit.

Choosing to Pursue 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)

Suggested Resources

1. Book of Romans, chapters 1-8; memorize chapters 4-8
2. Book of Ephesians, memorize ch. 1&2;
3. Book of Colossians, memorize ch. 3
4. Book of 2 Samuel, note each account of devastation and heart-ache caused by David's sin with Bathsheba.
5. *The Joy of Fearing God*, Jerry Bridges
6. *The Godly Man's Picture*, John Owens
7. *The Holiness of God*, R.C. Sproul
8. *The Enemy Within*, Kris Lundgaard
9. *Finally Free*, Heath Lambert (for men)
10. *Passion and Purity*, Elisabeth Elliott (for women)

Next Semester

- June 12th – 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