

SESSION #11 BIBLICAL MANHOOD: XXX**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Whether you're age 25 or age 75 – if you're a man – then sexual _____ is part of your battle and most likely your daily battle.
2. When pursued according to God's "noble pathway," sexuality can be healthy and healing. When pursued according to Satan's "shadow pathway," it only leads to hiding, deep darkness, and eventually a personal prison.
3. Perceived anonymity and pervasive _____ have made pornography a bigger problem than ever before.

II. SUSCEPTIBLE BRAINS AND DISCONNECTED HEARTS**1. Susceptible Brains**

- God intended for us to _____ in the bodily form of our wife and for her to enjoy our enjoyment.
- When a man views pornography, pleasure chemicals are released in his brain in amounts that far exceed the normal levels.
- You quickly build up a tolerance to the same old stuff you've already seen and to get the old high you'll have to _____ the boundaries.
- We are not playing with something harmless or safe. This stuff is liquid nitrogen.
- You are not _____. This should strike shame at its root because we are all in the same boat and have the same capacity for this stuff.

2. Disconnected Hearts

- Struggles with pornography and sex betray a deeper need in us – a deep need for _____ with God and others.
- Show me a man connected to God and trustworthy men and I'll show you a man nobly fighting the battle with lust.

III. THE NOBLE FIGHT AGAINST LUST: APPLYING OUR "BATTLE PLAN"

1. We've got to admit the sin and pursue ruthless _____ beginning with ourselves and then with trustworthy men.
2. Identify the broken _____ of pornography.
3. Now we get to move from the broken promises of lust to a vision for something better.
 - The power to say "no" to pornography is in being convinced that God himself

and the pathway of Authentic Manhood is more _____.

- When you begin renewing your mind by turning to God's truth, you'll find an entirely new strength in your heart.
- We must load our minds and hearts with the ammunition of Scriptures more satisfying promises.

IV. FIGHT THE BATTLE

1. Pursue _____ with God.
 - "Every man who knocks on the door of a brothel is looking for God." – G.K. Chesterton.
2. Pursue heart-level community with other men and your wife. (James 5:16)
 - "The pursuit of purity is not about the suppression of lust, but about the reorientation of one's life to a larger goal." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
3. When you're actively pursuing a bigger God-vision for your life, you'll find your passion for Him and His vision increasing, and your attention to lust decreasing.
4. Run to _____ with all your heart, store His promises in your mind and heart, and rest in His grace and His infinite pleasures.

DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How can understanding the truth about how the male brain operates help you?
2. Reflect on this statement: "Show me a man disconnected from God, from his wife, and from others, and I'll show you a man either struggling with, or extremely vulnerable to, sexual temptation. But, show me a man connected to God, his wife, and trustworthy men, and I'll show you a man who has a chance to fight the noble fight." Are you currently experiencing heart-level connection with God, your spouse (if married), and trustworthy men? Discuss.
3. Which of the three Deep Idols (control, significance, and comfort) is at the root of you battle with sexual temptation? What false promise can lust use to lure you (escape, validation, power, acceptance, comfort)?
4. Share what you felt after experiencing Bryan Carter's transparency as he shared about his struggle with pornography. Do you have the freedom to be that transparent with other trustworthy men who can fight the battle with you?

5. Write down and share with your group your one or two STRATEGIC MOVES that you need to make in order to apply what you've learned in this session.

ANSWERS:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Whether you're age 25 or age 75 – if you're a man – then sexual lust is part of your battle and most likely your daily battle.
3. Perceived anonymity and pervasive accessibility have made pornography a bigger problem than ever before.

II. SUSCEPTIBLE BRAINS AND DISCONNECTED HEARTS

3. Susceptible Brains

- God intended for us to delight in the bodily form of our wife and for her to enjoy our enjoyment.
- You quickly build up a tolerance to the same old stuff you've already seen and to get the old high you'll have to push the boundaries.
- You are not alone. This should strike shame at its root because we are all in the same boat and have the same capacity for this stuff.

4. Disconnected Hearts

- Struggles with pornography and sex betray a deeper need in us – a deep need for intimacy with God and others.

III. THE NOBLE FIGHT AGAINST LUST: APPLYING OUR “BATTLE PLAN”

1. We've got to admit the sin and pursue ruthless honesty beginning with ourselves and then with trustworthy men.
2. Identify the broken promises of pornography.
3. Now we get to move from the broken promises of lust to a vision for something better.
 - The power to say “no” to pornography is in being convinced that God himself and the pathway of Authentic Manhood is more satisfying.

IV. FIGHT THE BATTLE

1. Pursue intimacy with God.

2. Pursue heart-level community with other men and your wife. (James 5:16)
3. When you're actively pursuing a bigger God-vision for your life, you'll find your passion for Him and His vision increasing, and your attention to lust decreasing.
4. Run to Jesus with all your heart, store His promises in your mind and heart, and rest in His grace and His infinite pleasures.

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