

Sermon Title: Sermon – Sex, Soul Ties, and Pornography – February 9, 2014 (Scripture is from the ESV)

Introduction

Good afternoon New Philadelphia Church. My name is John-Michael Becker and I'm one of the preaching pastors of the church. I want to begin by saying that today's message is going to be on a very important topic that you might consider unsuitable for kids ten years old and younger. If you have children ten or younger here then I suggest putting headphones on them and distracting them with coloring books, or taking them to a back room. For kids in 5th grade the odds are they already have been exposed or will be exposed very soon to what I'm going to share about today.

Sex-ed at the Orphanage

Today's sermon was influenced through my work at an orphanage I have been serving at the past eight years. As I have mentored the different boys there I have seen just how critical the topics I'm going to speak about today are for them, for their generation, and for the church as well. What I'm going to teach and preach about today I hope will equip you to not just walk in freedom personally but to also teach to others and set others free as well. Our generation is in desperate need for wisdom on these matters.

Today's sermon is, "**Sex, Soul Ties, and Pornography**"

Let's open our Bibles to 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 – Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, 'The two will become one flesh.' But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

The word "sexual immorality" in this passage is "Porneia" in the Greek. This can be translated as illicit sexual intercourse, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bestiality which is sex with animals, and incest. This is also where we get the word for "porn" from.

Why Wait for Marriage?

Fornication means having sexual intercourse with someone you are not married to. God is very clear in 1 Corinthians 6 and in many other passages that sexual immorality, including fornication, is evil. The commandment "Do not commit adultery" doesn't apply just to people who are married, but to people who aren't married either.

So why does God want us to wait until marriage? Why is sex outside of marriage dangerous? I'm going to start with reasons that any person, regardless of age or religious background can understand. Here are five reasons for, "Why Wait for Marriage?"

A first reason to wait until marriage is that **premarital sex weakens trust between a couple**. Sex is like a fire. It's powerful and wonderful, but it's also extremely dangerous if it is not contained. When someone makes a campfire they are very careful about setting a perimeter,

or boundaries, around it before lighting it so that the fire won't spread and destroy. People are drawn to campfires or to fires in a fire place. But people are not drawn to wild forest fires or to buildings on fire. Sex is meant to have boundaries.

Marriage is the truest boundary because it is a commitment for life. One of the most influential therapists in the world, John Gottman, emphasizes throughout his books on marriage that **the most key ingredient to a successful marriage is trust**. More than romance, memories, compatibility, or anything else, trust is the key ingredient to marriage. If a couple has sex before marriage then they are demonstrating to each other that the covenant and commitment of marriage is not of much sanctity to each other. This shows they cannot be fully trusted with the covenant because it obviously wasn't special enough to them to wait. Marriage establishes the healthy boundaries for sex that makes it something safe and enjoyable. Sex can then strengthen the relationship rather than destroy it. According to different polls married women are the most satisfied sexually because for women sex is much more emotionally powerful to them than physically. There is a clear correlation for most women between the amount of emotional connection they have with their partner and the amount of satisfaction they experience in sex. If a woman feels deep trust for her partner, then she will enjoy sex much, much more. Waiting for marriage greatly strengthens trust between a couple.

A second reason to wait until marriage is because **sex creates babies**. That should be a, "duh," but this shows all the more that sex is meant for marriage where there is a commitment for life to each other. There are no returns or exchanges with babies. Children are for life.

A third reason to wait **is because of STD's** (sexually transmitted diseases). Sharing this with youth is very important. This is all the more reason why waiting for marriage is a blessing. If both partners can wait, then they are guaranteed to be healthy and to have healthy children.

A fourth reason to wait for marriage is that **premarital sex steals the joy and connection of a dating relationship**. Males think about sex a lot more females, younger boys especially. But if there is a commitment to abstaining from sex until marriage, then the guy will be less prone to have thoughts about sex. But if the door is open in any way for sex, the guy will likely push more and more for sex and once sex happens it will usually become the focus for the guy for a season before that flame eventually subsides. And because the guy stopped connecting emotionally and instead focused more on the physical, sexual connection, the relationship will have deteriorated. Having sex without a covenant, without boundaries or commitment, is to treat sex like animals do: something free and fun, that can be done whenever and with whomever.

Farmers know that once a bull loses interest in a cow for mating, all they have to do is introduce a new cow and its sexual response will be just as strong as the first. And this continues with every new cow introduced to the bull. The same goes for rams with ewes, or female sheep. A ram will only mate with the same ewe five times, but if you present a different ewe one after another then the ram will keep mounting the next with the same enthusiasm as the one before it. The same also goes for roosters with hens and 95% of all other mammals on earth.

Hollywood and the media love presenting the joys of such an active sexual lifestyle. Does the bull enjoy mating with all sorts of different cows? Of course! Does the ram enjoy mating with all sorts of different ewes? Of course! Does some guy enjoy mating with a bunch of different

women? For most men, they will say “yes.” But, does the bull have a lasting emotional connection with any of the cows? No. Does the ram have a lasting emotional connection with the ewes? No. They’re animals. And if a man resorts to acting like the animals, he too won’t have any lasting emotional connection. Instead he is training himself to get aroused more for the next mate rather than whomever he is with. This is why pornography is so addictive among men. I’ll get to pornography more later in the sermon.

You are not animals. The connection between men and women is meant to be far deeper than just physical. To agree to wait until marriage enables a couple to strengthen that emotional commitment and to truly set oneself apart for the other. There will be a deep appreciation for sex and intimacy if a couple waits until marriage.

Song of Songs is a book about lovers. In it there is a verse that repeats three times in the eight chapters. You could say it is the chorus of the book of love. The phrase is...

Song of Songs 2:7 (3:5, 8:4) – I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

The NIV says, “Do not arouse or awaken love until it pleases.” **This verse was my aid in having pure dating relationships.** We set up boundaries to not arouse or awaken love. And thanks to these boundaries my mind was clear and dating was healthy. I treasure my memories from when my wife Sky and I were dating.

The fifth reason why to wait can be taught to people of any background without using the Bible, but it’s much more effective using Scripture. The fifth reason to wait until marriage **is because sex creates a soul tie.** A soul tie is simply a tie that is formed between two peoples’ souls, or their mind, will, and emotions. There are healthy soul ties and there are unhealthy soul ties. Let me explain first without using the Bible and then by using Scripture.

Soul ties are critical for human development. When a baby is conceived it immediately grows a soul tie with the mother. The baby keeps this soul tie through its younger years. Without a soul tie between conception and five years of age, a child becomes susceptible to Reactive Attachment Disorder, or RAD. Such kids have no emotional connection and become devoid of morals. Such kids drown puppies, even kill their siblings, and do all sorts of other immoral behavior. Most people in foster care or adoption agencies are aware of this disorder. A good book to read about it is, “When Love is not Enough.” A soul tie for a child is very important.

But what happens around 12 – 14 years old? The child starts to develop into adulthood and starts to become more distant and even rebellious towards its parents. What is happening is that the child is gradually cutting the strong soul tie and becoming their own person. The child is developing into an adult, with his own dreams, inhibitions, and desires. This stage is messy, but it’s very healthy. If a child does not go through this stage, then they become what we call, “A mama’s boy.” Such adults sometimes still live with their parents and are deeply connected with whatever the parents say or desire. The soul tie was never cut.

Soul ties can form not just from the womb, but also through vows, through deep emotional connection, and through sex. Healthy soul ties can form through friends committing to each other, like David and Jonathan in the Bible. Marriage is the ultimate example of a soul tie. During the wedding the couple exchanges vows. Then the couple exchanges rings while making vows as they put the ring on each other’s finger. My wedding

ring on my hand is a symbol of my wife's commitment to me. My soul is tied to hers and her soul is tied to me. Then, after this wedding ceremony, the couple goes on a honeymoon and consummates their marriage by having sex. Thus the soul tie is made strong.

When teaching kids I use the scotch tape example. When I place scotch tape on a surface it will stick strongly to it. When I remove it from the surface it will lose some of its strength and also take some of the original surface with it. When I place it on another surface, it won't be as strong but will still stick. When I remove it, it will again lose some of its strength and will also take some of the second surface with it. It's no longer pure, no longer as strong, and is carrying everything from the past on it. The same happens for people who have multiple partners in sex. They carry a part of the previous partners with them and the bond from sex grows weaker with each partner. This is vividly seen through STD's, but can also be seen from the emotions and mix of memories brought from each past partner.

For some soul ties, people are unknowingly carrying them just like they might be unknowingly carrying a dormant or hidden STD. For others the soul ties are more obvious... "I can't stop thinking about him." "I think about her often and I'm drawn to people who remind me of her." For some, the way they treat their current partners is sometimes unknowingly affected by their soul tie with a previous partner.

Where are soul ties in the Bible? In 1 Samuel 18:1 we read that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David. They made vows to each other and protected each other. In Genesis 34:2-3 we read about a man named Shechem raping Jacob's daughter Dinah. After the rape in verse three the literal translation of the Hebrew is, "Shechem's soul cleaved, or was stuck to, Dinah." In Song of Songs 6:12 the woman, in a number of different translations (KJV, NKJV, NASB), refers to her lover as "her soul." We also read earlier in 1 Corinthians 6:16 that he who joins himself sexually with another becomes one body, or one flesh with her. Sex is the most vivid demonstration of two people becoming one. It is meant to be the consummation, or the completion, of a marriage of two people becoming one.

Soul ties are very real. I have a friend who recently married a man whose first wife had passed away. This friend confessed that she felt like the first woman was still in the house and she felt really uncomfortable with the framed picture of the woman on his desk and with some of the things in his closet from the first marriage. Sky explained to my friend, who isn't Christian, about soul ties and she then spoke with her husband. He was understanding and removed the things. Since then my friend hasn't had any of those feelings she had previously.

Isn't it funny how a lot of girls will keep stuff from their ex-boyfriends? Why? Why do women do this? Do they think, "When I'm older and I have daughters I can't wait for when they're 16 or 17 and I can pull out my old love letters from ex-boyfriends and we can read them together." How creepy is that? If my wife were to put on some jewelry and I were to find out they were from past boyfriends, I would not be pleased. Holding on to such objects only evoke jealousy. It's not wise. Those things need to be disposed of. Those soul ties need to be cut.

So how do you cut a soul tie? It's the same way as dealing with another past idol in your life. If I were a Buddhist who accepted Christ, I would need to repent of my former idolatry to God and declare my commitment to Him. Repentance means turning away, and so by saying, "I repent of my idolatry," I mean that I'm turning away from bowing down to the idols. But more than repentance I also need to renounce my tie with the idols. **Another word for**

renounce means forsake, which means to completely do away something. I would say, “I renounce all idolatry with my Buddhist idols” and then would destroy and get rid of the idols in my house. Repenting isn’t enough, the house needs to be cleansed! The past connections need to be done away with! So when someone goes through a healing and deliverance session with our church we lead the person through not just repenting of sexual sin, but also renouncing soul ties with previous partners. We then exhort the person to get rid of objects that might tie that person to the people he or she has renounced soul ties with.

Even couples who are getting married who had premarital sex with each other need to repent and renounce their soul tie before marriage. Their soul tie was formed without the blessing of God and needs to be cut. That way when the couple finally has their wedding day, they are marrying with pure bodies, able to receive God’s full blessing.

Jesus’ blood cleanses us from sin. He is able to take the scotch tape that has lost its power because of all the different junk stuck to it and He is able to make new again. Jesus restores. He redeems. We are meant to be a people pure and set apart. We are meant to be a people walking under God’s full blessing.

Proverbs 28:13 – Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Marriage is meant to be a covenant made before God. This is the chief reason why waiting for sex is so important. Just as we are meant to worship one God and one God alone, so we are meant to be married to one spouse and one spouse alone. Intimacy is only meant for that covenanted partner. Intimacy outside of covenant is not blessed by God. And if it is not blessed by God, then it is sin and it is cursed. Sin brings consequences. Let me say this again, **intimacy outside of covenant is sin and it is cursed.** I know of couples who had sex during their engagement knowing they would eventually marry each other, and then their marriage had much more struggles than couples who waited. Why? Because even though they didn’t sleep with others, their soul tie had been formed without God’s blessing. They had become one without God’s favor over their lives. They had basically mocked the sanctity of marriage. And then it’s no wonder why their kids were more susceptible to lust than the children who were born of parents who were pure and who waited. There are blessings and there are curses.

Some people point to polygamous relationships in the Old Testament and say that God is okay with multiple partners. The truth is that while God was silent regarding those things early on, with every mention of multiple wives there was jealousy and discord. Think of Abraham with Sarah and Hagar. Think of Jacob with Leah and Rachel. Think of Samuel’s mother Hannah. None of those were pictures of peace and unity. Think of David and his multiple wives and the lust that ensued in his life and in his children’s lives. Think of Solomon and his hundreds of wives and how they led him away from God. The culture of the time in Genesis was very polygamist. In David’s time part of a king’s power was in the number of wives he had. Throughout the Bible you can see God leading them out of culture of the world and into His Kingdom culture.

In Matthew 19 Jesus quotes the well-known passage from Genesis 2 that the two shall become one flesh.

Matthew 19:6 – So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.

God's plan was for Adam and Eve, not Adam and Eve and Clarissa. When Noah and his sons entered the ark they each had just one wife. They were considered blessed by the Lord, while the rest of the world was destroyed.

Malachi 2:14-16 – The Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. **Did he not make them one**, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit and do not be faithless.

I stated before that it is important for people to repent to God of their past sexual sin and renounce any sexual soul ties before marriage. This should also happen between partners with each other before they are engaged. Sex is powerful, and to hide your past before marriage is completely unfair to your partner. To wait until the engagement ring is on her finger or to wait until after marriage to share about your past is wrong. Now couples shouldn't open up about their sexual history right away when dating. During the initial first dates and getting to know each other, the focus should be on who you are now and who you're becoming. But as the dating commitment deepens, and definitely before the engagement, there should be a time of sitting down and sharing about each other's pasts and giving each other time to process. To demand someone to forgive you of your past sin is not love and is not grace. It is up to the other person in how to move forward. He or she might forgive but might not be able to move forward. Or he or she might need some time to process before moving forward in the relationship. Regardless, this is crucial and makes for a much healthier relationship if both choose to move forward.

What if during confession time the guy or the girl confess to struggling with an addiction to pornography? **In my personal opinion, I do not recommend anyone getting engaged with someone who has a current addiction to pornography.** For the person addicted to say, "I'll stop once we get married" he or she is lying. When people get married lust doesn't just disappear. Pornography also offers things that your spouse will never be able to offer to you. In fact, let's transition from talking about sex to talking about pornography now...

Pornography

Porneia in the Greek is basically gratifying your sexual nature apart from the person you are married to... whether it's through another sexual partner, an animal, a dead body, a movie, a picture, or some other object. Porn is evil. It is false intimacy.

Matthew 5:28 – But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Viewing porn has similar effects on the mind as cocaine and heroin. It releases a chemical called dopamine into the brain that creates pathways of pleasure and joy. Dopamine should be created naturally through healthy interaction with people, but with narcotics and with porn it is created unnaturally. The pathways in the mind that are formed from the drugs and from porn make it easier and easier for the user to go back for more, causing addiction. The brain

will try and protect itself by numbing itself more to the dopamine to lessen the amount that is released. But this in turn only strengthens the need for something heavier to release more dopamine so that pleasure will be as strong as the first initial feeling. This is why drug addicts tend to resort to heavier and heavier drugs. And this is why porn addicts tend to go to heavier and heavier material.

Lust does not satisfy. If it did, then there would only need to be one pornographic picture for a man to be pleased by for his whole life. Instead, there is always a need for more. Porn actually encourages the animalistic tendencies in men, so that like the bull and like the ram the man needs more and more variety to be pleased. So how can his wife please him if he has trained his body to always want to see a different woman? It becomes impossible. Some men who get so addicted to porn cannot function sexually without viewing it, because things in the natural are not shocking enough to arouse him. Porn kills a man's healthy appetite. It's like feeding a young child snacks and candy for years and then suddenly expecting the child to eat healthy, balanced meals.

Porn isn't just limited to men. Statistics show that 1 in 3 pornographic site visitors are women. Other statistics state that 25% of Christian women are addicted to pornography. I don't know if that stat is fully accurate, but I will say in leading healing and deliverance sessions many women have had at least a period of time in their lives where there was an addiction to porn and a number others were still currently struggling when we had the session.

Men and women don't just view porn because of lust issues. Shame, rejection, loneliness, the desire for intimacy, and depression are some of the other causes, and there are more. The pleasure chemical dopamine is usually released from a hard earned success. For those who didn't have fathers to teach them what success is or for those who have struggled a lot in their lives, porn is an easy route to feeling the dopamine. For such people, fighting lust isn't just the issue but also finding community where they are accepted and loved can help break off every symptom that might lead to temptation for looking at porn.

Here are four simple reasons why porn is evil...

The first reason is that **porn causes the person viewing to soon see the opposite sex as objects**. Soon instead of seeing them out of empathy and compassion, perversion enters. This destroys emotional connection.

The second reason that porn is evil is **that it never satisfies**. I shared about this before. Like any drug the addiction usually starts with simple, seemingly harmless material. But soon that material doesn't satisfy and something heavier is needed. This process never ends. Porn does not satisfy. People are not content with just one picture or one magazine, they always need more.

A third reason that porn is evil is **because it takes the joy out of intimacy between a husband and a wife**. Instead of being aroused by one's spouse, they need to see porn or fantasize about false intimacy in order to enjoy sex. Sex is no longer appreciated as a gift from God for a couple.

A fourth reason that porn is evil is **that your mind gets darker and darker** as you have to look at darker material.

I have counseled different people who in fear confessed to me having twisted sexual thoughts beyond what they were comfortable with. Originally they started with soft porn and thought it was okay. Soon they were viewing harder, more graphic material. And suddenly they began hearing voices encouraging them to look at sexual acts beyond just a man and a woman. They would shake as they would tell me, “I’m not that type of person” but they couldn’t deny the voices. The spirit of lust they had allowed in was twisting their minds.

Porn is evil! We need to teach of these things and train those around us in how to fight it, so that it will never own us.

I want to add that masturbation should also be avoided. Here are some quick reasons why:

1. Masturbation tends to encourage sexual fantasy, which is porn.
2. Masturbation is selfish. It is the opposite of love. Love serves and is not selfish or demanding.
3. Masturbation tends to bring feelings of shame if found out. If you saw a dog licking itself you probably would yell at it to stop. We are not dogs.
4. Masturbation is also addictive. In 1Corinthians 6:12 Paul says that he will not be enslaved by anything. For these reasons masturbation should be avoided.

What Are We Fighting For?

Now why is our fight for purity so important? Why can’t we just give in to some of these things? Let me share why...

Personally, aside from sexual abuse cases, I have found people who have had deep struggles with lust, different sexual orientations, or who began masturbating at a pre-pubescent age almost all had some sort of generational curse in their lives. Either their parents or grandparents were very promiscuous or involved in some other sin. Often for girls who struggled with lust at a very young age their father was absent or rarely spoke into their lives.

I already spoke of curses and blessings earlier when I spoke about how sex outside of covenant is sinful. When you mix pure water with polluted water the product is polluted water. When an impure person has intimacy with a pure person sadly the child that will come forth will carry many of the impurities of the impure parent.

My father had a strong addiction to drugs and alcohol when he was younger, as did many of my relatives on his side. Knowing their background, he requested to me when I was younger to avoid alcohol knowing that I would likely be more prone to addiction because I carry his genes. It’s the same when a mother is on drugs or alcohol during pregnancy; the child will be born much more prone to those same addictions even from birth.

King David was known to be promiscuous as he had multiple wives and also slept with Bathsheba who was his friend’s wife. Because of David’s sin, his children were much more prone to lust. His firstborn Ammon raped his sister in an act of incest. Another son Absalom ended up sleeping with David’s concubines. Another son Adonijah wanted to marry the girl who cared for David and slept in David’s bed with him. Another son Solomon ended up marrying 700 women along with having 300 concubines. David was for the most part a righteous man, but his acts of lust severely affected his sons.

Someone born of pure parents and of a pure line will have much more grace dealing with temptations of lust than a person born of impurity and sin. That is part of how generational blessings and generational curses work. This is why God is seeking Godly offspring who are set apart. **This is why, no matter our background, we need to repent and seek absolute purity before God.**

Now, just because your parents or your grandparents may have been in deep sin does not mean you are meant to live in a horrible struggle all your life. To say, “I was born this way and so I’ll always be this way” is completely against the Gospel. Christians are filled with faith! We were all sinners, but God has redeemed us. Romans 8:37 says that we are more than conquerors. Philippians 4:13 says that in Christ we are able to do all things. 1Corinthians 10:13 says that we are able to overcome every temptation. So how are we supposed to fight?

How to War Against Lust

The question comes down to this: **“Am I going to own my sexuality, or is it going to own me?”** It’s either Satan has you pinned with his foot on your neck, or you have him pinned with your foot on his neck. It’s one or the other. Are you going to own your sexuality, or is it going to own you?

There are two verses that give clear instructions in how we are to fight lust. The first is for the fight in the physical and the second is for the fight in the spiritual.

1Corinthians 6:18 – Flee from sexual immorality.

You have to train yourself to get away from it. Lust will try and shock you and catch you off guard. You need to be like Joseph, who at the sight of Potiphar’s wife trying to seduce him, ran for his life. You need to be like the angels who yelled at Lot to run out of Sodom and Gomorrah. You need to obey the words of Proverbs 7:25 where we are instructed to never stray into the path of the adulteress. We are called to flee in the flesh from sexual immorality. What does that look like for us today?

That means avoiding movies with nudity or sexual content that will affect your mind. It means staying away from certain areas in the city where you know you might be tempted. Don’t go back to that club. Don’t go back to that massage parlor. It means setting up wise boundaries that will protect you from temptation.

We also aren’t just to flee with our body, but also with our eyes.

Job 31:1 – I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?

Other translations say, “How could I look lustfully on a young woman?” Job was a righteous man who made a covenant with his eyes not to look in lust. He had trained his eyes not to linger on anything that might be tempting.

Just as I shared before how porn creates pathways for dopamine that increase addiction within a person, training your mind to react will also create pathways that will soon overtake the pathways of addiction. This takes effort, but is possible for anyone.

When I was growing with the Lord in college I began to feel convicted of how unclean my mind was. While I wasn’t looking at porn, my eyes would still wander and so would my mind.

I began to train my mind how to react. Whenever I would see something tempting or would find my eyes wandering, I would mentally picture a boot stomping on whatever I was seeing and I would shift my mind to something else. I found quoting Scripture or singing songs helped a lot. Training my mind took some time, but soon I found myself walking in a grace I never imagined. Lust no longer had a hold on me. It didn't mean temptation was completely gone from my life, but I had learned how to deal with it. Even in dreams you can train your body to fight and to turn away, and soon I found when I would have a lustful dream I could also turn away or wake myself up out of it. Many men and women have these same testimonies.

So the first step is flee, flee in the physical by either running away or looking away.

But what about the situations where you can't flee? What about when temptations are all in the mind?

James 4:7 – Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Flee in the physical, resist in the spiritual. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of evil. We need to learn to resist the devil and we need to have faith that he will indeed flee from us if choose to resist.

Jesus resisted the devil three times by quoting Scripture and then the devil fled from Him. If you really want to war against lust, you need to memorize Scripture and be ready to use it. Psalm 119:9 and Psalm 119:11 are two great Scripture to memorize. John 8:32. Philippians 4:13. 1John 4:4. And so many more.

I have counseled many men who by learning to flee and learning to resist were able to overcome addictions that they previously felt hopeless against. The decision was always whether they were really going to war against lust or just try and maintain it. You're a fool if you believe you can maintain lust and not get burned by it. You're a fool if you walk in areas of high temptation thinking you will never, ever be burned. You must be wise and be aware.

Accountability is a huge help. Soldiers should never go into battle alone. In your war against lust try and find someone else who is either walking in victory or is just as zealous as you are in fighting against lust. Never join with someone who feels hopeless, they will only bring you down. If you really want victory, then have someone you can call at any time for help. Learn how to flee. If you are tempted while going to sleep or in the middle of the night, then learn to flee! Don't just lay in bed in torture, but instead get out of bed and go into another room and pray. I did this many times before I was married. It's far better to resist and watch the devil flee than to give in. You have to learn to war!

James 5:16 – Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Pastor Christian preached on will power a couple weeks ago. He emphasized how we need to picture ahead of time what type of scenarios might happen to us and be prepared in advance of how we will respond. If you know there is a time or a place where you usually feel temptation, then talk with your accountability partner and write up a game plan. Just as you can train your eyes and your mind to turn from lust, you can also train your body to turn away as well.

I want to make this clear: you should all expect to walk in victory and in full purity. Otherwise the Gospel is a joke. But while we will walk in victory and purity, temptation will still come. **But what is important is that we don't respond to it and that we never let it affect our identity.** Temptation does not shape us. There are married Christian men who still experience temptations now and then that are homosexual or pedophilic in nature, but those temptations are lies just like every other temptation. No temptation is too great for us. Just because someone suddenly has a murderous thought, that does not make them a murder. It's the response that matters. We are all God's children. We are all made pure by the blood of the Lamb.

I also want to share that it is the baptism of the Spirit that truly empowers believers to walk in full strength. The book *The Cross and The Switchblade* shares about Victory Outreach Center where so many people were able to overcome drug addictions that were supposed to be in their bloodstream for life. When interviewed about when the addiction fully left them, patient after patient shared they experienced full freedom after they were baptized by the Holy Spirit. In our war against lust we need to always be asking for more God's Spirit and more of His presence in our lives. It is His anointing that breaks the yoke.

Time to War

I opened this sermon sharing about how I had to teach about these things to the different kids at the orphanage I serve at. If I didn't teach those things, then I doubt anyone else would have and those kids would have made the same mistakes or worse that I made. I hope in listening to this sermon you aren't just convicted about your own purity, but that you feel a fire in your heart that you will train this next generation in how to walk in purity. You must share what you have learned!

Are you going to be the one to make a stand and stop this generational curse, both for your life and for others, or are you going to leave this to someone better?

I want to close this message by having everyone stand up... Hillside, Itaewon, Seaside, Sydney, those watching at home... stand up. I want us to take a moment to war against lust and its attack on our generation and on the children around us. If anything I spoke today convicted you then I want you to repent of any sin and renounce any soul ties or shame or other heaviness that may have been on you. For everyone else I want us to pray out loud for the freedom of our loved ones, the freedom of our church, the freedom those we care for, and for our children to walk in purity with strong generational blessings. Declare addiction being broken all around us. Command shame to leave. Cover this young generation with love and protection. Let's war for purity!

Pray!

Lead them all in renouncing lust, addiction, shame, fear, darkness, ties with the enemy
Cast demons out! Declare shifts in their minds. Declare grace to move forward.

John 8:12 – Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”