

LUST'S SLAVERY

Dan Wilvers- July 1st, 2018-Part 4

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. Ephesians 4:17-19

The word **sensitivity** here means: *the ability to enjoy something*. So what lust does is it deadens us. Instead of being more alive and more human we become less so.

Sensuality is the inability to say no to ourselves. You want to stop but cannot, and you're left only thinking of pursuing THE VERY THING that imprisoned you and caused you to feel so empty in the first place.

HEALING'S PATH

1. Healing comes first and foremost when you come out of hiding, No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Cor. 10:13

2. Healing comes when you realize you can't run your own life and neither can anyone else. For all have sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3;23

3. Healing comes when you see the consequences of your choices. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Ephesians 5:5,6

4. Healing comes when we understand God and how good He is to us. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1



Normal Sexual Desire Versus Lust

Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity...Ephesians 4:19

HE: How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.

SHE: How handsome you are, my beloved! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant. Song 1:15

SHE: I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

HE: Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the young women.

Song 2:1, 2

SHE: Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be love.

⁵Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love. ⁶His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me. ⁷Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires. Song 2:4,5

Song of Songs is a book not about the sex act; but about the desire for the beloved. It's clearly a picture of timely sex. It's also a picture of these powerful desires that should not be awoken lightly.

In the Bible humans were sexual before they were sinful.

So here's the point: Sexual desire isn't the problem, it is the corruption of sexual desire that is the problem.

THE BEGINNING

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. ...²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Genesis 1:26-28

So sex was a part of the original intention of God creating humanity. That male and female were both image bearers that meant they were of the utmost worth significance and value.

Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Genesis 2:25

THE FALL

He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. ... and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Genesis 3:1-8

HUMAN BEINGS WERE MADE TO RULE OVER CREATION
Instead a piece of creation invites humanity to submit to its wisdom rather than the Creators wisdom.

THE POINT IS CREATION IS NOW REVERSED.
Instead of human beings partnering with God in the administration of the created order, they find themselves alienated from God and each other.

HOW DID THE TEMPTATION NARRATIVE BEGIN?

You have a garden full of yes's and they were being asked to focus on the one no.

SIN'S SPIRAL

- Ingratitude
- Idolatry- (Giving priority to something other than God.)
- Denying the consequences (The Devil: "You will not certainly die")
- Imprisonment/Bondage/Slavery

PAUL'S TESTIMONY

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. Romans 1:18-20

This is Paul's way of saying there is nobody who can shake their fist at God and say, "*I didn't have enough reason to believe.*"

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God *nor gave thanks* to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. ...²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

Romans 1:21-25;28