Five Lies That Destroy Lives Episode 5

“The Lie of Lust”

Rev. Richard C. Whitcomb

rev.whitcomb@revrcw.com

Jesus said in John 8:32, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**1. The Lie: I will find SATISFACTION when I yield to LUST.**

"Uncontrolled or illicit sexual desire or appetite; a passionate or overmastering desire or craving."

Three facts that expose the lie:

* Fact #1: Lust is not natural.

1 Corinthians 6:13 "The body is not meant for sexual sins. The body is meant for the Lord. And the Lord is meant for the body."

James 1:14-15 "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."

* Fact #2: Lust CAN be overcome.

1 Corinthians 10:13 “God is faithful; he will not let you be temptedbeyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”

Psalm 119:9 A young man can “cleanse his way”.

* Fact #3: Lust does not satisfy.

James 4:2 "You lust and do not have."

Hebrews 11:25 "...the fleeting pleasures of sin."

**2. The Truth: Yielding to lust leads to BONDAGE and DEATH.**

Three Consequences of Lust:

* Condquence #1: You become a slave to sin.

Romans 6:16 "Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living."

Proverbs 11:6 "The unfaithful will be caught by their lust."

* Consequence #2: You harm yourself.

1 Corinthians 6:18 "Flee from sexual immorality.

All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body."

1 Peter 2:11 "Abstain from fleshly lusts which

war against the soul."

* Consequence #3: You will die spiritually.

Ephesians 5:5-7 "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. Let no one deceive you with empty words,

for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them."

"No immoral person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God."

Galatians 5:19-21 "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity...I warn you that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

**3. The Solution: Live a PURE and HOLY life!**

Three practical steps to take to win the war on lust:

* Step #1: Make Job's covenant with your eyes.

Job 31:1 "“I made a covenant with my eyes

not to look with lust at a young woman."

Matthew 5:27-29 “Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

* Step #2: Make David's covenant with your heart.

Psalm 119:11 "I have hidden your word in my heart,

that I might not sin against you."

* Step #3: Make Paul's covenant with your body.

Romans 13:14 "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

1 Corinthians 10:12 "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!"

* Make Job's covenant with your eyes.
* Make David's covenant with your heart.
* Make Paul's covenant with your body.

Galatians 5:16-17 "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Study Questions

Read 1 Corinthians 6:13-20.

* As Christians, who does our body belong to? Do we have the right to do what we want with our bodies? Why not?
* In what ways does what you do with your body affect your mind and your spirit? How do Christians justify their sin today? What kind of excuses do you hear? What type of excuses for lust do you make in your own life?
* Read James 1:13-15. Is it possible to be overcome by your desire to sin? Do you ever view your sin as something outside of your control? Have you ever met someone who believed that God led them to sin? How would you answer such a person?
* Our bodies are meant for the Lord. Instead of yielding ourselves to the desires of the flesh, how can we yield ourselves to the desires of God? As we yield to God’s rule in our physical bodies, how will this change both our mind and our heart?
* Look at Romans 6:16. When we choose to sin, who are we choosing to obey? Is becoming a slave to sin a long process, or does it happen immediately when you choose to sin? What does choosing to obey God lead to?
* Read 1 Corinthians 5: 6-13. How might one person’s immorality affect the whole church? How does the yeast example help describe this? Peter tells us that fleshly lusts, “war against the soul.” What areas in your life will immorality affect?
* What is to be the difference in our standard for how we treat the sins of Christians and non-Christians according to verses 9–13? What does it mean that we are to judge those inside the church (v. 12)? How should we check our own hearts to make sure we will not be counted among the wicked?
* Read Ephesians 5:5-7. To what are immoral people compared? What is the idol that they have made for themselves? How does this idol ensnare them?
* Read Psalm 119:11. Why is God’s Word so critical to winning the battle against the flesh? How can keeping the Word in your heart protect your body against sin?
* How much does your thought life affect your actions? Have you ever been tempted to sin by something you have seen or read or heard about? What is the best way to protect your mind from these thoughts?
* Overcoming lust is a spiritual battle. What will strengthen your spirit to resist lust? What will weaken you toward lust? Where is your greatest temptation right now?
* What are some practical ways we can flee sexual immorality today? How can we honor God with our bodies?

**Action Point:** **Which of the three covenants for sexual purity is most needed in your life now?** Write your commitment to keeping that covenant on a sheet of paper, take it home, and put it where you will see it every day. Each time you see it, pray that God will give you the desire to honor him instead of following your own preferences.