

May 11, 2003

Week Twenty-eight: "Overcoming Sexual Bondage"

Day One: Small Group Guide

Read: 2 Samuel 13 (p. 346)

Read: Commentary (p. 347)

Reflect: What do you think is the understanding of sexual freedom in our culture? What would the understanding of sexual bondage be? How is it different in the Bible?

Dig: As you read this text, notice where you find the typical expressions of sexual abuse:

Obsession: verses 1-2

Deceit: verses 5-9

Seduction: verses 9-11

Use of force: verses 12-14

Resulting hatred: verse 15

Vows of silence: verses 20-21

Sexual sin and abuse is often a family or generational pattern. Is this the case here?

See 2 Samuel 11:1-5 (p. 343) and 2 Samuel 12:11-12 (p. 345)

Also read the "Freedom Point" on page 345.

We are called to "take the way of escape" from sexual lust (I Corinthians 10:13). Where did Amnon fail to take this exit?

When have you failed to take this exit provided by God?

Apply: Ask God to reveal to you how lust has brought grief in your life. Where have you thought of lust as a "victimless crime"? Admit to God the foolishness of such thinking.

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Day Two: "Foolish Thinking"

Read: Proverbs 7:6-27 (p. 700)

Read: Commentary (p. 700)

Reflect: What foolish thinking have you done regarding the consequences of sexual sin?

What lies does our culture tell us about sexual sin?

Dig: What do the first five verses of the chapter tell you with regard to avoiding sin?

Why are they the introduction to the rest of the chapter?

According to this passage, what is the cost of sexual sin? (see verse 23)

According to Jesus (see Matthew 5:27-30 p. 1082), what is your soul in danger of in lust?

What should we be willing to sacrifice to avoid sinning?

Apply: If you are going to "take every thought captive" (2 Cor. 10:5) and "if your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away," (Matt. 5:27) then what drastic action might God be asking of you?

Conclude your time with God by turning to page 1519 in the Freedom Bible and reading aloud the prayer at the bottom of the page.

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Day Three: "The Entrapment of Sin"

Read: 2 Chronicles 29 (p. 496)

Read: Commentary (p. 496)

Reflect: Why is it that sexual sin (even if it is mostly mental and fantasy) makes us feel not only guilty but also unclean?

Dig: What steps does Hezekiah take to cleanse the temple?
Verse 5:

Verse 15:

Verse 21:

Verse 27:

Verse 29:

Even though we live in the new age with the blood of Jesus as our cleansing agent, how might these steps be followed when we need to be cleansed?

What parallels do you see between this passage and Romans 12:1-2 (p. 1295)?

Apply: In prayer, offer the parts of your body to God, asking him to cleanse each part and then consecrate them to the Lord. Begin with your head (offer your mind, your eyes, your ears; then continue through your whole body).

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Day Four: "Sexual Bonding"

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20 (p. 1310)

Read: Commentary (p. 1311)

Reflect: What is it about sexual intercourse (aside from God-given pleasure) that is so powerful in the life of a healthy marriage?

Dig: What three truths does Paul mention (in verses 13-15) in giving high honor to the body?

What is the logic of verses 16-17? (see paragraph two in the commentary for help)

What are the three results of sexual sin that are mentioned in the commentary?

Can you think of any others?

Apply: Since we can be "soul-tied" or illegitimately bonded with other human beings, bring the name of each person (even in your fantasy life) you might be bonded to before God. Ask him to break any soul ties and to cleanse your body of the effects of that sin. Then thank him for your inner

freedom and cleansing.

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Day Five: "Sin Dwelling in You"

Read: Romans 7:14-25 (p. 1287)

Read: Commentary (p. 1288)

Reflect: Do you find that certain sin habits are virtually impossible to break? How do you feel about that?

Dig: Read carefully and see if you can note the phrases that Paul uses that indicate that he is describing the state of a believer, not an unbeliever.

How is the first sentence in verse 18 a key to understanding this passage?

How is chapter 7 related to chapter 8? In other words, what does the "therefore" mean in the beginning of chapter 8?

Apply: Admit to God in prayer the sexual and other sins that still stubbornly dwell in you. Now ask him to deliver you from this body of sin. Determine to keep fighting against this sin because you have the power of Jesus!