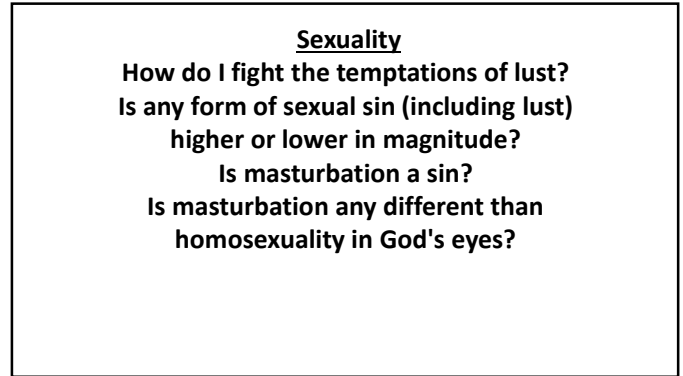
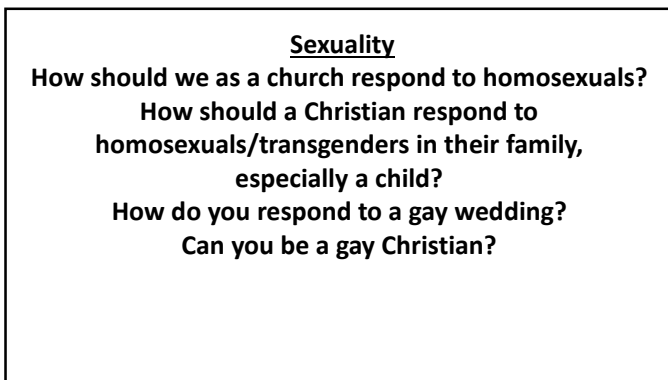




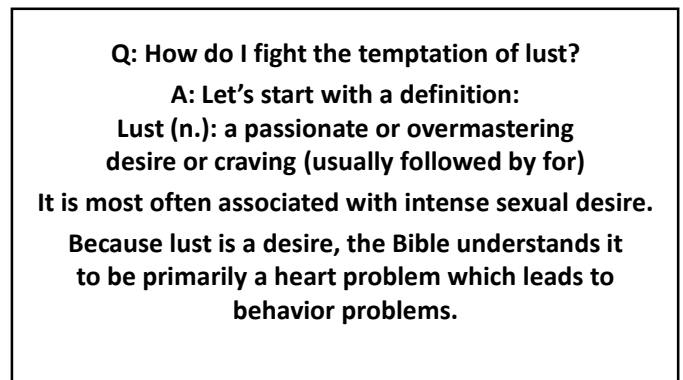
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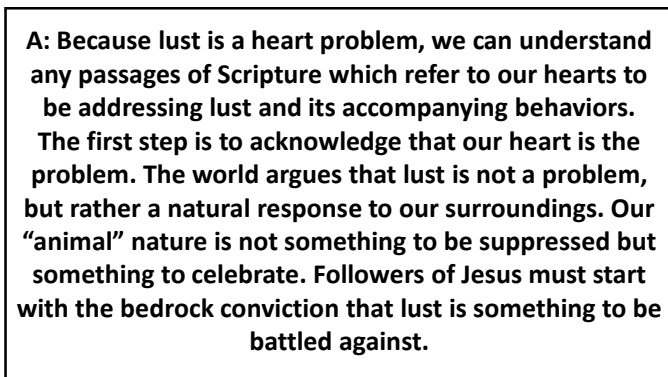
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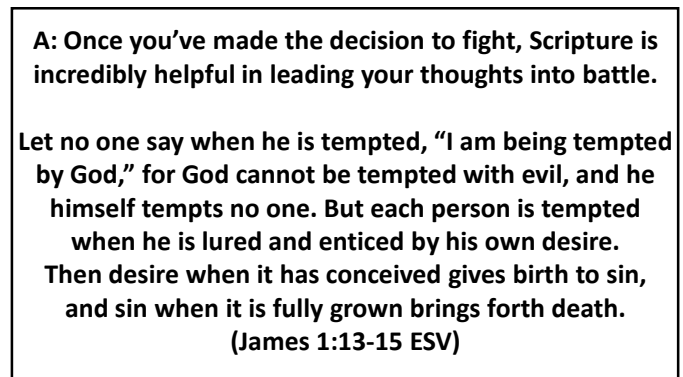
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4



5



6

The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick; who can understand it?
“I the Lord search the heart and test the mind,
to give every man according to his ways,
according to the fruit of his deeds.”
(Jeremiah 17:9-10 ESV)

7

But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the
heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart
come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality,
theft, false witness, slander.
(Matthew 15:18-19 ESV)

8

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging
war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our
warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to
destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every
lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God,
and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being
ready to punish every disobedience, when your
obedience is complete.
(2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ESV)

9

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is
honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever
is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any
excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think
about these things. What you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and
the God of peace will be with you.
(Philippians 4:8-9 ESV)

10

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things
that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand
of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on
things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life
is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life
appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:
sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire,
and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account
of these the wrath of God is coming.
(Colossians 3:1-6 ESV)

11

Not that I have already obtained this or am already
perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because
Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not
consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to
what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize
of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us
who are mature think this way, and if in anything you
think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.
Only let us hold true to what we have attained.
(Philippians 3:12-16 ESV)

12

A: A battle plan against lust:
Acknowledging the sources of your temptation
Confess your sin and your temptation to God and others
Remove the communication channels of your temptation
Replace that which your tempted by with that which is
holy and righteous.
Get up the next day and press on.

13

Q: Is any form of sexual sin (including lust)
higher or lower in magnitude?
Is masturbation a sin?
Is masturbation any different than
homosexuality in God's eyes?

A: The Bible does describe varying degrees of
consequences of sexual sin, but it is not clear that any
particular expression of sexual sin is more or less
deserving of God's wrath.

14

A: The blanket word for sexual deviancy in the New
Testament is the word *porneia*, which is translated
"sexual immorality."
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. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20 EV)

15

A: Types of sexual sin described in Scripture:
Adultery (2 Samuel 11)
Rape (2 Samuel 13)
Prostitution (Hosea)
Homosexuality (Genesis 19)
Incest (Genesis 35:22, 49:4, 1 Cor 5:1f.)

Other practices, like bestiality and pedophilia,
are prohibited without a detailed example.

16

A: Some Biblical passages appear to be referring
directly to masturbation, but there is some debate
about the point of these passages:
Onan "spills his seed" in Genesis 38:9-10. It's likely that
Onan's real issue is his unwillingness to obey God by
providing for an heir on behalf of his dead brother.
Jesus says to "cut off your right hand" if it is causing you
to sin in Matthew 5:27-30. While this may certainly
include masturbation, the context is more broadly
referring to lustful thoughts.

17

A: Even if the topic of masturbation is not specified
in Scripture as sexual immorality, there are many
Biblical reasons to believe it to be so.

18

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). If we cannot give God glory for something, we should not do it.

“Everything that does not come from faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). If we are not fully convinced that an activity is honoring to God, it is a sin.

“I will not be mastered by anything” (1 Corinthians 6:12). Christians have a responsibility to avoid anything that might enslave them.

19

“I discipline my body and keep it under control” (1 Corinthians 9:27). Self-denial is difficult, but self-discipline is worth it.

“The fruit of the Spirit is . . . self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23). Masturbation is almost always a sign of a lack of self-control.

20

A: God’s word consistently makes clear that all sexual sin is worthy of God’s wrath and is to be avoided. We tend to make a list of the “severity” of all kinds of sins, including sexual ones. The main difference between sexual sins is the degree of consequences that are suffered because of them. David’s adultery cost a child his life (2 Samuel 12:14). Gomer’s continued whoredom caused much grief to Hosea. The Corinthians’ failure to walk away from sexual sin contributed to the church’s poor health.

21

A: Today, the consequences of sexual sin extend even farther: tragic diseases which can cripple or take lives, deep emotional damage and regret, broken relationships between adults and children, and pregnancies which tragically lead to abortion.

22

**Q: How should we as a church respond to homosexuals?
How should a Christian respond to homosexuals or transgenders in their family, especially a child?
How do you respond to a gay wedding?
Can you be a gay Christian?**

23

A: If we understand *porneia* to include all sexual deviancy, then we should respond to homosexuality the same way that we would respond to all other types of sexual sin: by helping people see it as sinful and helping them to battle against it just as we would battle against every other kind of sin. Everything the Bible teaches about sexuality is based on the truth that our sexuality does not define our identity. Our identity as believers is found in Christ alone.

24

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

25

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

26

They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.
(Romans 1:21-32 ESV)

27

A: For someone with a family member who is either homosexual or transgender, the goal is to find a way to convey the truth about those decisions with the same grace that we have been shown by Jesus for our own sin. It is rarely effective to badger or argue with someone, especially a family member, about such decisions. But in these circumstances, we must remember that we are to reflect the truth of God's word and not our own personal biases towards someone who we disagree with

28

A: The choice to attend a gay wedding is dictated by the same principals that we would stand by when considering condoning or even appearing to offer support to any other kind of sin. There are some who believe that it is possible to be present to support the person without supporting the decision. This is a very difficult choice to make and must be governed by one's own conscience as they are led by the Holy Spirit.

29

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

30

**Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
(Matthew 10:34-39 ESV)**

This passage suggests that there are real relational sacrifices to be made in order to follow Jesus.

31

A: In our modern culture, there is a new distinction that we are all living under: support can only be shown in the form of acceptance. There no longer seems to be any acceptable method to show someone support that does not include condoning all the behaviors of the person involved. A well-meaning Christian can possibly cloud the truth by simply being present at such events.

32

A: The argument is sometimes made that Jesus spent time with tax collectors and sinners (Mark 2:15-17, John 4, etc.), so Christians should be willing to do the same in the case of a gay wedding or other family occasion. This is a specious argument: Jesus never condoned the sin of the tax collectors who were ripping people off, or the “sinners” with whatever they were doing, or the woman that the well who had at least six men in her life. There was never any indication that those choices were “supported.”

33

A: To be a practicing “gay Christian” is to intentionally deny or ignore the parts of Bible that speak against a lifestyle that is increasingly acceptable to the world. We don’t get to change the truth just because there are more people who want it changed.

Others choose to manage homosexual tendencies despite significant temptations. Those who struggle in this area don’t have to act on those temptations, as is also true of every other sin that tempts us.

34

**For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
(2 Timothy 4:3-5 ESV)**

35

A: From our doctrinal statement on Gender, Sexuality, and Marriage:

We believe that God offers forgiveness, redemption, and restoration to all who repent of sin of all kinds, including the topics discussed in this statement [gender, marriage, and sexuality].

Our ministry stands ready to walk alongside any repentant person who decides to battle against sin.

36