

Consuming Desire: Adultery, Idolatry, and Delighting in God

Part 2: There is a Better God

Sexual immorality is not about sex—it is about worship.

1. What is sexual immorality? Gk. *πορνεία* (*pornea*) = 'harlot for hire' Our English word 'porn' is derived from *pornea*.
 - According to the Biblical definition, 'porn' existed long before the printing press, photography, and the internet.
 - Any sexual activity (thought, word, deed) specifically prohibited in or contradicting God's Word: adultery, fornication, porn, masturbation, homosexuality, cross-dressing, pedophilia, bestiality, etc. (incl. lustful thoughts or fantasy about)
2. What is idolatry? Gk. *εἰδωλολατρία* = 'idol serving'
 - Giving to something else that which belongs to God alone
 - Trying to get from something else that which we were made to only get from God
 - This series is not ultimately about sexual immorality—it is about finding life in God.
3. The Bible teaches there is a connection between sexual immorality (*pornea*) and idolatry (false worship).
 - When God's people worship idols, the Bible calls it 'adultery.' Nu 25:1-3; Hosea; Is 57:7f; Jer 3:9; Mic 1:7 Ez ch.16,23
 - When God's people commit adultery, the Bible calls it 'idolatry.' Lev 20:1-7; Col 3:5-6; Rom 1:24-27; Rev 2:20-22; Jn 4

Overcoming sexual immorality ('porn') begins in the heart.

1. The idea of 'the expulsive power of a new affection.'
 - This phrase was the title of a sermon by Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847), a Presbyterian minister in Scotland.
 - How do we deal with sinful affections? *Only by our hearts being consumed with a new and greater affection (desire) will the old affection (desire) be removed.* → Consuming Desire
2. Biblical basis for this idea:
 - Matthew 6:24: No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
 - Mark 3:24-25: If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.
 - Luke 14:26: If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.
 - 1 John 2:15: Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

→ Ask God to take over your heart.

What keeps us from overcoming porn (sexual immorality)?

1. SHAME. We stay in patterns of sexual sin because of shame.
 - Shame involves questions of our identity—who we are in the eyes of others. Will I be acceptable if I am truly known?
 - Shame of... our desires: → What if some of my desires are 'perverted' or sinful?
 - Shame of... our abilities, weaknesses → Why can't I control this sin? ...stop drinking? Eating? Looking at porn?
 - Shame of... our immaturity → I've been a Christian for a long time—shouldn't I be over this by now?

→ Application: How should we deal with shame? We should despise it, we should scorn it. This is what Jesus did. Heb 12:2
-To scorn = Lit. "to disregard it, to be unafraid, to care nothing for" (Ref. Lk 16:13; Mt 18:10; Rom 2:4; 1 Tim 4:12)

→ Ask God for a greater FEAR. Is 8:11-14a
2. UNBELIEF. We stay in patterns of sexual sin because of unbelief.
 - 1 John 5:4: Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.
 - Matthew 17:20: Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.
 - Hebrews 11:33-34: ...who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

→ Ask God for a greater FAITH.
3. WE HAVE NOT SET OUR MINDS AND HEARTS ON WHAT WILL GIVE US LIFE.
 - Colossians 3:1-2: Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
 - Ps 16:11: In Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.
 - Ps 84:10: For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside, I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
 - Ps 63: O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you
 - Ps 65:4: How blessed is the one whom You choose to bring near to You to dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple.
 - Ps 27:4: One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple.

→ Ask God to set your heart and mind on Him. Ask Him for a greater DESIRE for and DELIGHT in Him.