

2016 -17 Homework #6

☺ Announcements of the week: ☺

- SCHEDULE CHANGE the BLOB All City Youth event is now Feb 22, NOT Dec 7
- Youth Room OPEN on Wed Nov 23 before and after the Thanksgiving Eve service until 10pm. Join us for games, fun, and PIE!
- You are WELCOME to come directly to church after school to hang out, get your homework down, play games, have a CHEAP and good meal (\$3). See you there!

Assignment:

****REMINDER** this homework is not a test and not about getting the perfect answers, but it is about digging into the Bible and learning about God. If you are confused or have questions, **ASK** us we'd **LOVE** to help!

1) Read 2 Samuel 11:1-12:14 the story of David and Bathsheeba.

a) List David's sins in this story

b) In your life have you ever had 1 sin lead to another and another and another? Why is it so easy for that to happen in our lives?

c) What did David do when he was confronted with his sins by Nathan?

d) How should you react when you are "busted" in your sins?

→OVER←

2) Read Psalm 51. This is written by David right after Nathan confronts him with his sin.

a) What jumps out to you from this Psalm?

b) Why would he want a clean heart?

c) Why do you think God forgave David after the horrible things he had done?

4) Read the story on the next page and write a paragraph about what you learned from this story and what kinds of choices you intend to make in the kind of media you will and won't use in the future.

>>> WILLPOWER <<<

PSALM 101:2-4

Kurt promised himself dozens of times that he would never visit that Web site again. But he did return, over and over. He found other sites that were even more graphic. It all felt so impersonal, empty—and addictive. Why didn't he have the willpower to stop?

The pornography industry insists that what they do is no big deal and that it's about consenting adults using their unlimited freedom of expression. According to them, it's all perfectly natural, harmless, victimless.

Kurt and millions of others with firsthand experience, disagree.

In reality, pornography . . .

- >>> promises love but delivers only lust;
- >>> perverts attitudes and changes actions;
- >>> cheapens sex to only a physical act;
- >>> blurs the line between reality and fantasy;
- >>> reduces women to objects of pleasure;
- >>> starts innocently, then spirals out of control.

These consequences are hardly justified by "freedom of expression."

If your friend's choice of free expression involved punching someone in the face, would you volunteer your face?

You don't have to experience something firsthand to know it's bad for you. You would never drink a gallon of gas, jump from a ten-story building, or stick your head into a cement mixer. Some experiences are simply not good for you.

Instead of learning from your own mistakes when it comes to pornography, learn from what others have done. Avoid it altogether and save yourself the frustration it created for Kurt. Pornography goes hand-in-hand with feeling shame, giving in to lust, and carrying mental images. Kurt learned that it took a change of heart to break the cycle.

King David knew a thing or two about lust. It led to his affair with Bathsheba and a long string of consequences in his family. His prayer of confession includes the familiar phrase, "create in me a clean heart" (51:10). A changed heart, with Jesus in the center, gives us renewed willpower to make right choices.

Ten times in this psalm, King David says, "I will." In verses 2-4 he lists four statements that deal specifically with personal integrity:

- >>> "I will ponder the way that is blameless."
- >>> "I will walk with integrity of heart."
- >>> "I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless."
- >>> "I will know nothing of evil."

The first two statements encourage you to get control of your thought life and to follow what you know in your heart is right. The second two simply challenge you to look away when pornography comes to tempt you. You can apply King David's "I wills" by:

- >>> finding ways to value the opposite sex and build biblical relationships;
- >>> growing in your heart relationship with God;
- >>> visiting Web sites that encourage your faith;
- >>> avoiding inappropriate media of all kinds;
- >>> getting help to deal with your addiction.

Kurt thought the Internet made it possible for him to secretly indulge his lust without affecting him in any other way. He was wrong. He didn't like the images in his mind or how he looked at women. God cleansed Kurt's heart and helped him find the willpower to give it all up. When you seek after the Lord and set your affections on Him, you will have no need to look for "love" elsewhere.

What about your heart? What about your standards? Who in your life could help you protect your heart? Pray for the willpower to eliminate worthless media from your life. Jesus is connected to you, and He wants no part of it!