
Marriage & Family

with Dr. & Mrs. Jim Newheiser

Conference 2019



1. Your husband and children come first (Prov 31:27; Titus 2:3-5)
 2. The calling of homemaker is a high calling (Prov 31:27)
 3. This does not mean that a wife cannot make a financial contribution to the family (Prov 31:16-19, 24)
 4. What should a wife do when her children are grown up? (Titus 2:3-5; Prov 31:20)
- E. Restore your husband when he strays from the Lord (1 Pet 3:1-2; 1 Cor 7:13)
1. Many wives suffer under the authority of disobedient (or unbelieving) husbands
(1 Cor 7:13)
 2. You are to act "in the same way" that Jesus did when He was under unjust authority (1 Pet 3:1a; 2:21-25)
 3. Overcome the temptation to nag (revile) your husband by entrusting yourself (and your children) to God (1 Pet 2:23; 3:6; Prov 14:1; 25:24; 1 Cor 7:14b)
 4. Instead, quietly try to win him by treating him better than he deserves (1 Pet 3:2-5; Rom 12:21)
 5. Many wives fail at this because they make an idol of their marriage (Jer 17:5-8)
 6. Peter is not saying that a wife must always be silent when her husband is wrong (Prov 9:8; 31:11-12, 23, 26; Gal 6:1; Matt 18:15ff)
- F. Submission is not absolute (Acts 5:29; Matt 18:15ff; Gal 6:1ff)
1. No husband has the right to command his wife to sin or to go against her conscience (Acts 5:29; Rom 14:23; Heb 10:25; 13:17; Eph 4:25)
 2. Wives are not obligated to endure physical abuse, abandonment or marital unfaithfulness (Matt 19:9; 1 Cor 7:15)
 3. A wife has the right to confront her husband's sins using the process outlined in Scripture (Matt 18:15-20)
 4. What if you have a passive husband who won't lead? (Rom 15:7; Jas 4:1-2; Jer 17:5-8; 1 Sam 25)
- IV. Conclusion

Conference Schedule

Friday & Saturday September 20-21

Trinity Baptist Church
5895 Bert Kouns
Shreveport, Louisiana

Friday

- 6pm- Check in
- 6.30- Welcome
- 6.45- Session One: The Foundations of Marriage
- 7.45- Break
- 8pm- Session Two: Keys to Preserving & Strengthening Your Marriage

Saturday

- 12.45pm- Welcome
- 12.55pm- Session Three: Gender & Sexual Identity and the Bible
- 1.55- Break
- 2.15pm- Session Four: When Good Kids Make Bad Choices
- 3.15- Break
- 3.30pm- Session Five: You Never Stop Being a Parent
- 4.30- Break
- 4.45pm- Session Six: Q& A with Dr. and Mrs. Newheiser
- 6pm- Dinner & Fellowship
- 7pm- Session Seven: Breakout Sessions
 - Men: The Pain of Pornography with Dr. Newheiser
 - Women: Grace, Sex, and Marriage with Mrs. Newheiser

You are invited to join us Sunday morning at 10.30 for worship led by Dr. Newheiser with lunch and fellowship to follow in the activity center.

The Foundations of Marriage

God's Good Design for Marriage - Genesis 2:18-24

- I. Introduction
 - A. The concept of marriage has undergone a radical change in our culture (Judges 21:25)
 - B. Our understanding of the divine origin of marriage is crucial
 1. Mankind is not autonomous: we are created by God and we are accountable to Him (Gen 1:1)
 2. Mankind is not merely an animal; rather we are made in God's image (Gen 1:26-27)
 3. Marriage is a creation ordinance (Gen 2:18-25; Matt 19:4-5)
 4. God designed marriage from the beginning and brought together the first man and woman in a covenant of companionship (Gen 2:18-25; Mal 2:14; Prov 2:17; Ezek 16:8)
 - a. Marriage is beneficial for mankind
 - b. Our marriages are to reflect our relationship with God (Eph 5:25,32; Isa 54:5)
 5. Because God's Word is infallible, timeless and fully sufficient, His design for marriage does not evolve nor change (Isa 40:8; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - C. Marriage defined: a lifelong covenant of companionship between a man and a woman, which has been established by God and before the community
- II. Marriage is made in heaven (Gen 2:18-23)
 - A. It is not good for you to be alone (vs. 18-20)
 1. A shocking statement – "not good" vs. 18; 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31
 2. Marriage is designed by God to make you complete
 3. Some, however, have the gift of singleness I Cor 7:7-8, 32-34; Matt 19:12
 4. Some who don't feel that they have the gift of singleness have to wait on the Lord
 - B. You need a suitable helper (vs. 19-20)
 1. Why does God bring all of the animals to the man?

- Cor 11:3; I Pet 3:7; Gal 3:28; Luke 2:51)
 - b. God has established order and authority in many relationships (Eph 6:1, 5; Rom 13:1ff; I Tim 2:9; 3:1; 5:17; I Pet 2:13, 18; 5:5; Heb 13:17)
 - c. One does not have to be in charge in order to be great (Matt 20:25-28)
 - d. The serving role of the wife is Christ-like (Mark 10:45)
 5. The biblical teaching on submission is misunderstood
 - B. Obey your husband's leadership for Jesus sake (Eph 5:22-24; Col 3:18; Titus 2:5)
 1. Recognize that God has made your husband the head of your family (Eph 5:22)
 2. Your submission is to be comprehensive – "all things" (Eph 5:24)
 3. Submission involves more than merely obeying commands
 4. The real test of submission is when you disagree with him
 5. Follow his leadership without fear (because you trust God) (I Pet 3:5-6)
 6. Don't usurp his headship (Gen 3:16; 4:7)
 7. Your attitude is as important as your actions – respect and grace (Eph 5:33b; Prov 12:4; 14:1)
 8. You will either honor or dishonor the Lord by how you treat your husband
 9. Submission is an act of faith in God (Prov 3:5-6)
 - C. Notice how you can do him good as his helper (Gen 2:18; Prov 31:10-12, 23)
 1. God designed you to complete him in every way (Gen 2:18; Prov 17:17; 5:15-20)
 2. Help your husband to succeed in his vocation and ministry (Prov 31:23)
 3. Use your influence over him for good (not evil) (Prov 31:11-12; 14:1; Gen 3:6; 16:2)
 4. Be his trusted counselor (Prov 31:26)
 5. Gently restore him when he strays from the Lord (Gal 6:1; Prov 25:11)
 6. Pray for him *and* for yourself
 - D. Organize your life around your responsibilities at home (Titus 2:3-5)

2. Jesus is committed to making you holy (Eph 1:4; Rom 8:29; Phil 1:6; Titus 2:14)
3. This is how you are called to change your wife
4. Are you actively pursuing her spiritual growth?
5. Do you have the courage to make biblical decisions which go against her preferences? (Gen 3:6; 16:2; Prov 29:25)
- E. Persevere in providing for her every need (Eph 5:28-30)
 1. The church is Jesus' beloved body (Eph 5:23, 3:6 4:12)
 2. Love your wife as you love your own body (Gen 2:23)
 3. Jesus generously provides for His bride, the church (Eph 1:7, 9; 2:5-6; 3:6, 12; 4:11)
 4. Nourish your wife – generously provide for her needs (Gen 3:17ff; 1 Tim 5:8; Ex 21:10; Titus 2:3ff; 1 Cor 7:3-5)
 5. Cherish her – understanding, patience, gentleness, respect, affection, appreciation (1 Pet 3:7; Col 3:19; Prov 31:11, 26, 28b-29)
 6. If you mistreat her, your relationship with God will be affected (1 Pet 3:7b)
- F. Steadfastly endure when marriage is difficult
 1. What if your wife is hard to love? (1 John 4:19; Rom 2:4)
 2. What if you don't have loving feelings towards your wife? (Eph 5:1-2, 25, 3:14-21)
 3. What if your wife won't follow your leadership?

Transforming Grace in Marriage Roles: Wives- Ephesians 5:22-33

- III. Wives submit to your husbands for Jesus' sake – honor him (Eph 5:22-24)
 - A. Hold fast to the subordinate role to which God has called you
 1. Many are offended at what Scripture teaches about the wife's role in marriage
 2. God designed marriage to be a partnership in which the wife follows her husband's leadership (Gen 2:18; 1 Tim 2:13-14; 1 Cor 11:8-9)
 3. We do not have the right to redefine the gender roles established by God (Isa 40:8; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21)
 4. Many objections to submission stem from an unbiblical concept of equality and significance
 - a. Submission does not imply inferiority of personhood (1

2. No other creature is a suitable helper
3. God made men and women to complement each other in marriage
 - a. God created gender differences (1 Pet 3:7)
 - b. A marriage is an interesting blend of similarities and differences
4. Only a woman can complete a man and only a man can complete a woman
5. Does God create anyone to be homosexual? (1 Cor 10:13; Rom 1:26-27; Lev 18:22f)
 - a. Homosexuality is sinfully contrary to God's design
 - b. We all know what it is like to be tempted by that which God has forbidden (1 Cor 10:13)
 - c. Many believers who had struggled with homosexuality have been transformed by God's grace (1 Cor 6:9-11)
- C. God provides a helper for the man (vs. 21-23)
 1. Why does God choose such an unusual method for creating the woman? (Gen 2: 21-22; 2:7, 19; 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26; 3:19)
 2. The husband should respect his wife because she is also made in God's image (Gen 1:27; 1 Cor 7:8-9; 1 Pet 3:7; Gal 3:28)
 3. The husband ought to cherish his wife as part of himself (Eph 5:28-29)
 4. Adam understands and rejoices in what God has done for him (vs. 23; Eph 5:29)
- D. The first marriage reveals God's design for the roles of both husband and wife
 1. Male headship was God's plan from the beginning (1 Cor 11:3; 1 Tim 3:13)
 2. The woman is created for the sake of the man (vs. 18; 1 Cor 11:8-9)
 3. The man exercises authority by naming the animals and his wife (vs. 20, 23; 3:20)
 4. The Fall has led to the corruption of marriage roles (Gen 3:16; 4:7; 1 Pet 3:1ff)
 5. The gospel makes the redemption of marriage possible (2 Cor 5:17; Eph 5:22ff)

III. God gives foundational directives for marriage (Gen 2:24-25; Matt 19:5; Mark 10:7; Eph 5:31; I Cor 6:16)

- A. Leave – Your marriage creates a new family unit
 - 1. Your marriage takes priority over any other human relationship
 - a. The parent/child relationship is temporary and changing
 - b. Grown children still honor their parents, but are no longer in subjection to them (Exod 20:12; Mark 7:9-13)
 - 2. Failure to leave is a violation of God’s design – geographically, economically, emotionally
 - a. Is it ever a good idea for a young couple to live with their parents?
 - b. Is it wrong for parents to help their married children financially? (2 Cor 12:14)
- B. Cleave – a husband and wife are joined in a lifelong covenant of companionship
 - 1. Marriage is a covenant commitment
 - 2. Divorce is a sinful violation God’s design (Matt 19:3-9; Mal 2:14-16)
 - 3. God allows protection for the innocent party when their spouse violates the marriage covenant through adultery or abandonment (Matt 5:32; I Cor 7:15-16)
 - 4. Some Christians, by faith, stay in hard marriages (Ps 15:4; Prov 3:5-6)
 - 5. Some hard marriages are transformed by God’s grace
 - 6. It is not enough to merely remain legally married
 - 7. Marriage is designed by to be the most personally intimate of human relationships (Mal 2:14; Song of Solomon)
 - 8. Emotional intimacy, including flirtation, with anyone other than your spouse violates your marriage vows
- C. One flesh – The sexual union is designed by God to be a blessing within marriage
 - 1. The sexual union is the sign of covenant commitment of marriage
 - 2. The sexual union is designed by God to produce the blessing of children (Gen 1:28; Ps 127)
 - 3. The sexual union is given by God for the enjoyment of both husband and wife (Prov 5:8-9; Heb 13:4; Song of Solomon 1:1ff;

Transforming Grace in Marriage

Transforming Grace in Marriage Roles: Husbands- Ephesians 5:22-33

- I. Introduction: The mystery of marriage is revealed in the gospel (Eph 5:32)
- II. Husbands love your wives in a Christ-like way – give her tulips (Eph 5:25-30)
 - A. Totally commit yourself to loving her (vs. 25a)
 - 1. The world has cheapened the meaning of “love” (2 Sam 13:4, 14-15)
 - 2. Jesus loved you when you were unworthy of His love (Eph 2:1-3; Rom 5:8, 10; I John 4:10; John 3:16)
 - 3. Christ-like love is a commitment to the good of the other person whether or not you think that they deserve it (Rom 2:4)
 - 4. Strive to reflect Jesus’ love for you (I Cor 13:4-7)
 - 5. Just as God, for Jesus’ sake, looks upon you as if you are perfect, treat her, for Jesus’ sake, as if she is perfect wife (Phil 3:9)
 - 6. God has made you to initiate in love so that she can respond (vs. 22; I John 4:19)
 - 7. Love her from the heart (Heb 12:2)
 - B. Unconditionally sacrifice your own interests meet her needs (vs. 25b)
 - 1. Jesus’ costly love is demonstrated on the cross (vs. 2; Gal 2:20; I Pet 1:19)
 - 2. Sacrifice your rights and interests for her good (Phil 2:3-8)
 - 3. Authority is given by God to serve (John 13:3ff; Matt 20:20-28; Mark 10:45)
 - 4. Do more than your share
 - 5. Such love may be used by God to help her to respond with much greater love and respect towards you
 - C. Limit your love to her alone (vs. 25)
 - 1. Jesus has a special love for His bride, the church (vs. 25a; John 10:11)
 - 2. A husband must remain faithful to his wife – body, affection, and attention
 - D. Irresistibly draw her with a love which purifies (vs. 26-27)
 - 1. Jesus powerfully drew you to Himself (Eph 2:4-8; John 6:44,37)

Keys to Preserving & Strengthening Your Marriage

Six Keys to Preserving and Strengthening Your Marriage

- I. Introduction
- II. The Lord must come first
 - A. Make your personal walk with the Lord your highest priority (Gal 5:16; 1 Pet 2:2-3; Ps 1:1ff; Phil 4:6-7; 1 Thess 5:17; Eph 5:15-21)
 - B. Remain involved in a strong church (Heb 10:24-25, 13:17; Eph 4:11-16)
- III. Laziness will cause your marriage to deteriorate (Prov 24:30-31)
 - A. Do not take each other for granted
 - B. Quickly and completely resolve conflicts – biblical peacemaking (Rom 12:18)
 1. Conflict is dangerous (Eph 4:26-27)
 2. Don't be quarrelsome – fire your inner lawyer (excusing and accusing) (Prov 29:22, 20:3, 25:24; Jas 4:1-2, 11-12, 1:19; Eph 4:29)
 3. First, get the log out of your own eye (Matt 7:1-5)
 4. Gently restore your spouse (Gal 6:1-2)
 5. Forgive as you have been forgiven (Eph 4:31-32)
 6. Get help (godly counsel) if you need it (Phil 4:2-3)
 - C. Commit to communicate
 1. Learn to listen in love (Jas 1:19; Phil 2:3-5; Prov 20:5)
 2. Build up with your speech (Eph 4:29; Prov 16:24)
 3. Learn to communicate on a deeper level
 4. Make specific plans to spend quality time together
- IV. Lies are like a deadly cancer to your relationship (Eph 4:25)
 - A. Nothing is more important in marriage than mutual trust
 - B. Lying includes exaggeration, spin (“always, never”)
 - C. Why do people lie? People lie for selfish reasons (Jas 4:1ff)
 - D. Some people are so accustomed to lying that learning to be truthful is like learning to speak a new language (and to trust God) (Prov 3:5-

VII. Receive Grace

- A. Accept grace from the Lord.
 1. You are loved by God despite your sin (2 Cor 5:17-18, 2, 1 Cor 6:1)
 2. Remind yourself of the gospel (Rom 5:1-2, 15, 17, 19, 21; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Phil 2:12b)
- B. Accept grace from your husband.

VIII. Graceless Sex Begins With a Graceless Attitude

- A. Selfish (2 Tim 3:2-5; 1 John 2:9) Biblical thinking (Phil 2:3; 2 Tim 3:2-5, 10-11a; 1 Cor 7:34-35)
- B. Sex as a duty
Biblical thinking (Heb 13:4; Prov 5:19; Phil 2:14)
- C. Sex used as manipulation (Gen 3:16)
Biblical thinking (Titus 2:11-14; 1 Cor 7:3)
- D. Poor body image (Song of Solomon 1:5-6)
Biblical thinking (1 Cor 6:19-20, 7:4; 1 Pet 3:4-5)

IX. Twisted View of Sex

- A. To get attention from others
Biblical thinking (1 Cor 7:4; 1 Tim 2:9-10)
- B. Women using pornography (Titus 3:3)
Biblical thinking (1 Pet 1:13-15; Ps 101:2-3)
- C. Fantasies
Biblical thinking (2 Cor 10:5; Matt 5:27-30)
- D. Adultery/fornication (Prov 6:23-35)
Biblical thinking (Heb 13:4)
- E. Masturbation (self-gratification)
Biblical thinking (1 Cor 7:4; 2 Tim 2:22)
- F. Performance-based
Biblical thinking (1 Cor 7:34-35; Song of Solomon 5:3)

X. Common Questions and Concerns

- A. “My husband isn’t interested”
- B. “I’m not interested”
- C. “Menopause is causing problems with our sex life”
- D. “My husband is into porn” (Eph 5:3-7, Eph 5:11-12; Matt 18:15-17)
- E. “My husband is self-centered about sex”
- F. “My mind is filled with bad memories from my past (Eph 4:22-24; Rom 12:2; 1 Pet 1:14-16)

III. Sex and the Single Girl

- A. Reserve this precious gift for your future spouse (Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, 8:4; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 Thess 4:3-5)
- B. Realize that God blesses the single (1 Cor 7:34b-35)
- C. Seek to be more like Jesus (1 Cor. 7:8, 11:1)
- D. Purpose to marry only a believer (2 Cor 6:14-18)
- E. Guard your heart and your mind, just as a married woman would
- F. Find your contentment and satisfaction in Christ (1 Tim 6:6; 1 John 2:17)
- G. We all approach the throne of grace as individuals

IV. Benefits of Grace Sex

- A. In our spiritual life
 - 1. Love one another (1Pet 1:22; 1 John 4:11; 1 Pet 5:5b)
 - 2. Be content (1 Tim 6:6; Phil 4:11)
 - 3. Remember Jesus Christ (2 Tim 2:8)
 - 4. Glorify God in your body (1 Cor 6:19-20; 1 Thess 4:4-5, 7; Eph 4:17-19)
- B. In marriage
 - 1. Build your house (Prov 14:1, 31:12)
 - 2. Glue, which holds you together

V. Attitude Adjustment

- A. Thank God for the sexual relationship
- B. Be understanding and unselfish (1 Pet 3:8-12)
- C. Show grace and mercy (Luke 6:31; 1 John 4:11; Jas 5:16a, 4:11-12; Matt 7:1-5; Eph 5:33b; Prov 13:12)
- D. Work on building the relationship
- E. Keep sex in mind
- F. Keep a sense of humor (Prov 17:22)

VI. Give Grace

- A. Your husband is a sinner (Rom 3:23)
- B. You are a sinner (Rom 3:23; 1 John 1:8)
- C. God shows you grace (1 Cor 5:17-21; Rom 5:9-11, 6:14; 1 John 4:19)
- D. Be a channel of blessing, not based on what he deserves (Luke 6:27-36; 1 John 3:16,18; Rom 12:17-18)
- E. As both of you move toward the Lord, you move toward each other (Rom 15:5-6)

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- E. Make it safe for your spouse to honestly confess their sins and failings

V. Lust can destroy your marriage

- A. Be circumspect in your dealings with the opposite sex (2 Tim 2:22; Prov 5:8 Jas 1:14-15)
- B. Don't be emotionally vulnerable with someone of the opposite sex (Gen 2:24)
- C. Don't think that it can't happen to you (2 Sam 11:1ff; 1 Cor 10:12)
- D. When one becomes married (or engaged) he/she commits to cut off all other romantic options until death parts them
- E. Establish guidelines for propriety in dealing with the opposite sex (1 Tim 3:2, 5:2)
- F. Consider the consequences of moral failure (Prov 6:27-35, 7:22-27)
- G. If boundaries are crossed, quickly confess and seek accountability

VI. Lift one another up in order to strengthen your marriage

- A. Look for that which is affirmable (Phil 4:8-9)
- B. Affirmation is biblical (Prov 31:28-29; Rev 2:2-6; 1 Cor 1:4-8)
- C. Affirmation glorifies God for His work in your spouse (Col 1:3-8; 1 Thess 1:2-10)
- D. Affirmation is very powerful (Prov 16:21b)

See – *Practicing Affirmation*, by Sam Crabtree

<http://www.ibcd.org/resources/messages/series/spring-seminar-2014/>

VII. Love like Christ's gracious love for you is the one key to keeping your marriage strong

- A. Both the Old and New Testaments portray the Lord's relationship with us as a marriage (Eph 5:32; Isa 54:5)
 - 1. You must first know the love of Christ (1 John 4:19; Eph 5:1-2, 25, 32)
 - 2. Study God's Word and meditate upon the greatness of Christ's love for you
 - 3. Pray the prayer which Paul prays for the Ephesians (Eph 3:14-19)
- B. Christ-like love is founded upon grace, not law (1 John 4:10-11)
 - 1. Most human relationships are implicitly governed by law
 - 2. This is not how God has dealt with you (Titus 3:5-6; Eph 5:1-2)
 - 3. You are the chief of sinners who has been shown great mercy (1

Tim 1:15)

4. Self-righteousness is delusional and destructive (Jas 4:11-12)
 5. You married a fellow sinner and should not be shocked when they sin (Prov 19:11)
 6. As you remember God's grace to you, restore and forgive your spouse (Gal 6:1; 1 John 1:8-9; Col 3:12-14; Mark 6:36)
 7. The kindness of God leads us to repentance (Rom 2:4)
 8. Marriages fail because of a gospel-disconnect
- C. Keep fighting for love
1. You are in a spiritual battle (Gal 5:17)
 2. Walk by the Spirit (Gal 5:16-24)
 3. Your spouse cannot make you fleshly (Gal 5:16; 1 Cor 10:13)
 4. Covenant love endures (1 Cor 13)
 5. God loves us with an eternal and unchanging love (Heb 13:5)
- D. Christ's love described (1 Cor 13:4-7; Phil 2:3ff)

VIII. Concluding summary (Ps 103:10; 2 Cor 5:15)

Discussion questions

1. Why is it important that married couples be committed to a strong church?
 2. How does your personal walk with the Lord affect your marriage?
 3. How can laziness cause a marriage to deteriorate?
 4. Are you quarrelsome? If so, how can you change?
 5. How do lies impact a marriage?
 6. How can you make it easier for your spouse to be truthful?
 7. What should be done to protect a marriage from sexual or emotional infidelity?
 8. What biblical basis is there for affirming your spouse?
 9. How can a person who tends to find fault and criticize others learn to be an affirmer?
 10. How does your experience of gospel grace affect how you treat your spouse?
 11. Why is it important for your marriage that you walk by the Spirit?
 12. Can your spouse make you fleshly?
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Grace, Sex, and Marriage with Mrs. Newheiser

Grace Sex or Graceless Sex

- I. Introduction
- II. Sex is Created by God
 - A. Before the Fall (Gen 2:24, 1:31)
 1. Naked and not ashamed
 2. Your body was made for your spouse (1 Cor 7:1-5)
 3. Your body was made to respond to your husband (Gen 1:28, 2:18)
 - B. Thou shalt be faithful. (Exod 20:14)
 1. God is faithful to His bride (Zech 8:8; Hos 2:14-23)
 2. You took wedding vows
 - C. God wants His children to enjoy marriage and sex
 1. There are good marriages in the Bible (Gen 26:7-8, 29:20, Ruth 3:10; Matt 1:19, 24)
 2. The Bible addresses this part of marriage (Song of Solomon; Ecc 4:9-12; 1 Cor 7:1-9; Heb 13:4; Prov 5:18-19)
 3. Thank God for this part of marriage (1 Tim 4:4-5)
 4. Set your mind on things of the Spirit (Rom 8:5)
 - D. It is symbolic of our union with Christ.
 1. One flesh/bride of Christ (Eph 5:25-33)
 2. Consummation/wedding supper (Matt 22:1-14; Rev 19:6b-8)
 - E. Song of Solomon
 1. A book of poetry
 2. It paints a picture of blessed married love.
 3. All the senses are involved (Song of Solomon 1:3,12-13, 4:13, 7:13a (Smell), 1:15-16 (Sight), 1:2, 2:3, 4:11 (taste), 2:14b (Hearing), 7:8, 8:3(touch)
 4. It reminds us to guard against those things which threaten marriage (Song of Solomon 2:15)
 5. It demonstrates the result of selfishness (Song of Solomon 5:2-8)
 6. Married couples use their words to express their joy with each other (Song of Solomon 1:9, 4:1b-7, 5:10-16, 6:4-7, 7:2-9)
 7. The loving couple is creative (Song of Solomon 7:11-13)
 8. There are warnings to remain chaste until marriage (Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5 8:4)

Gender & Sexual Identity and the Bible

I am my Sexuality – Same sex attraction and transgender

- I. Introduction: Can those who experience unbiblical sexual desires be changed?
 - A. How can we help those who are enslaved to these sins to live holy lives?
 - B. Our culture is embracing homosexuality. Rom. 1:32
 1. The gay narrative
 - a. Same sex attractions signal a naturally occurring or “intended by God” distinction between homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality
 - b. Same sex attractions signal who you really are as a person (emphasis on discovery).
 - c. Same sex behavior is an extension of that core.
 - d. Self-actualization of your sexual identity is crucial for your fulfillment.
 2. Allberry
 - a. You are your sexuality.
 - b. Your sexuality is your sexual desires.
 - c. You discover your sexuality by sexual feelings which then define you.
 - d. Your sexual desires must be embraced in order to flourish because your sexuality is who you really are.
 - e. Failing to affirm someone’s sexuality is offensive since it equates to rejecting someone at the deepest level.
 - C. We need to be prepared to give honest, compassionate biblical answers. 1 Pet. 3:15 Acts 20:20 Eph. 4:15
 1. The issue hinges around definition and identity. The world believes that people are free to create their own identities and to define marriage as they wish.
 2. Our identity is created by God Who also defines marriage.
 3. We must interpret people’s life stories using God’s infallible and timeless Word. 2 Ti. 3:16f
 4. Human marriage is important because human marriage is used to reflect the story of the Bible which begins and ends with mar-

women on the internet.

- d. He views photos or videos of men and women having sex.
 - e. He gratifies himself sexually while looking at porn.
 - f. He goes to strip clubs.
 - g. He gets lap dances at the strip club.
 - h. He watches kinkier sex videos/photos – bondage, masochism.
 - i. He watches homosexual sex videos/photos.
 - j. He watches illegal porn -- children, bestiality.
5. Your love and grace can help to rescue your husband from temptation. Pr. 5:15ff
- B. The biggest problem is the loss of trust. Eph. 4:25
 1. The sex is usually easier to forgive than the lies.
 2. The husband must be honest and accountable.
 3. How much should he tell her? Eph. 4:29
 4. How much should the wife check up on her husband?
 - C. Help the husband to repent and the wife to forgive. 2 Co. 7:10-11 Eph. 4:32
 - D. Help the wife to find her security in the LORD. Jer. 17:5-8
- VI. Conclusion: God Offers Hope and Forgiveness. 1 Cor. 6:9-11 Ps. 51 32
 - VII. Recommended resources.
 - A. At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry, Gallagher
 - B. Fidelity, by Doug Wilson
 - C. Pornography: Slaying the Dragon, by David Powlison
 - D. Pure Freedom, Cleveland
 - E. The Purity Principle, Alcorn
 - F. Sexual Detox: A guide for guys who are sick of porn, Challies
 - VIII. Handouts
 - A. Sexual Purity Covenant
 - B. Business Travel Plan for Avoiding Sexual Temptation
 - C. Personalized List of Anticipated Consequences of Immorality
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11:1ff

- B. Make a covenant with yourself. Job. 31:1,9
 - 1. Stay as far away from temptation as possible. Pr. 5:8 Ro. 13:14 II Sam. 11:2
 - 2. Beware of rationalizing sin. Pr. 30:20
 - 3. Don't trust yourself. I Co. 10:12 II Co. 7:10
 - 4. See Madam Folly according to her true nature. Prov. 2:16-19 7:10-12,14,18
 - 5. When does a look become lustful?
 - C. Be prepared to take radical action. Mt. 5:29-30 Ro. 13:14 12:1 Eph. 5:3 Ga. 6:7-9
 - 1. When tempted, RUN and don't look back. II Tim. 2:22 Gen. 39:8-13
 - 2. Cut off TV, internet.
 - 3. Notice patterns of sin/triggers.
 - 4. Take every thought captive. II Co. 10:5 Phil. 4:8-9 Mt. 15:19
 - 5. When you stumble, be honest. I Jo. 1:8-10
 - D. Seek help: accountability and prayer. Js. 5:16 Pr. 27:17
 - E. Be prepared for an ongoing battle.
 - F. Draw near to your wife. Invest in your marriage. I Cor. 7:3-5 Heb. 13:4 Ecc. 9:9 Pr. 5:15-19
- V. Helping a wife whose husband struggles with lust.
- A. Some things a wife needs to understand about her husband's struggle with lust.
 - 1. His lust is primarily a sin against God, not you. Ps. 51:4
 - 2. His lust does not have to do with your inadequacy.
 - 3. Men are sight driven and may be attracted by the sight of a good looking or immodest woman in the way you might be attracted to chocolate.
 - 4. Not all lust/pornography is the same. You need to understand where a man's behavior is on a spectrum and deal with him accordingly.
 - a. He sees a pretty girl at the beach and his eyes linger.
 - b. He notices a swimsuit model when he is checking the sports scores.
 - c. He deliberately seeks photos of naked or nearly naked

riage. (Allberry) Gen. 2:24 Rev. 19:7-8

- II. Should homosexuality be treated differently from other sins/temptations?
 - A. Homosexuality is contrary to God's design and His law.
 - 1. God's design is for one man and one woman to come together sexually in the covenant of marriage. Gen. 2:18-25 Mt. 19:4-5
 - 2. God's law forbids all sexual activity outside of marriage between a husband and his wife. Heb. 13:4 Lev. 20:10-16
 - 3. God's Word explicitly forbids homosexual behavior. Lev. 18:22 20:13 Jude 1:7 I Ti. 1:10
 - 4. A culture which celebrates sexual deviancy has been given over by God. Rom. 1:26-27 Deep down people know this. Rom. 1:32 2:15
 - B. Why do some people experience same sex attraction (SSA)?
 - 1. Nature.
 - 2. Nurture.
 - 3. We are all sinners by nature. Rom. 3:10ff Jer. 17:9 Pr. 14:12 Isa. 53:6 Eph. 2:3 Mark 7:21ff 2 Co. 5:17 I Pe. 1:18
 - 4. We all live in a fallen world which is full of evil influences. Ro. 12:2 I Jo. 5:19
 - 5. Different people struggle with different temptations. I Co. 10:13 Mark 7:21-
 - 6. We are responsible for the choices we make. Js. 1:13-15 I Co. 10:13
 - 7. Nature and nurture are important influences but they are not determinative – Christ has redeemed us from the sins of our forefathers. I Pet. 1:18 Ps. 27:10
 - 8. Christ enables us to live new holy lives. I Co. 10:13 Gal. 5:16ff 2 Cor. 5:17
 - C. Is same sex attraction sinful?
 - 1. Our culture wrongly assumes that whatever someone desires (especially in the sexual realm) is good and normal. Judges 21:25 Prov. 14:12 Isa. 5:20 Heb. 3:13
 - 2. Scripture teaches that unholy desires (not just acts) are sinful. Mt. 5:27-28,21-22 Js. 1:13-15 Col. 3:5 Jer. 17:9
 - 3. Not just the act, but the desire must be put to death. Col. 3:5 I Jo. 2:16
 - 4. Don't blame God when you are tempted to sin. James 1:13

- III. How can people change?
- A. Can homosexuals change?
1. Some claim that sexual orientation can't be changed.
 2. Homosexuality is like other sins and requires the same response. 1 Co. 10:13 6:9-11
- B. God's Word (the gospel) offers unique hope for all sinners.
1. We understand the true problem – sin which comes from the heart. Mark 7:20ff
 2. We know the true answer – redemption. Eph. 2:1ff
 3. We have the truth – God's infallible, powerful, and all-sufficient Word. 2 Tim. 3:16f
 4. We have the power of the Holy Spirit. Gal. 5:16f
 5. The gospel provides both forgiveness and transformation. 2 Co. 5:17 Phil. 1:6
 6. God will not allow a believer to be put into a situation in which sin is inevitable. 1 Co 10:13
- C. Homosexuals need to become Christians, not merely heterosexuals. 1 Co. 6:9-11 Luke 15:4-7 Mark 1:14-15 1 Th. 1:9 Luke 15:4-7
1. *I was converted not out of homosexuality, but out of unbelief.* (Rosaria Butterfield)
 2. Those who are converted have a new identity. 1 Thess. 1:9 2 Co. 5:17 Luke 15:4-7
- D. Many pursue unbiblical methods of change.
1. Mysticism/deliverance ministry. Prov. 2:2-12 Eph. 6:11ff
 2. Legalism/moralism. Rom. 5:20 8:3 Gal. 3:3 4:9 Mark 7:20ff Pr. 4:23
 3. Reparative/conversion therapy. Col. 2:23
- E. The change we seek is unique. Col. 1:28 1 Tim. 1:5 Eph. 4:24
1. We seek not merely a change of behavior, but a transformation of heart..
 2. Unbelievers are incapable of the change God requires. Rom. 8:6-8
- F. The gospel is the foundation for change.
- a. Remember what God has done for you. Eph. 1-3 Col. 1-2 Eph. 4:19-20,24,32 5:1-2,25ff
 - b. Only believers can change in a way that pleases God. Rom. 8:5-8 14:23 Heb. 11:6
 - c. What about cases in which unbelievers appear to change

2:19 Pr. 27:20

- III. Lust is very destructive.
- A. It affects your relationship with God. Ps. 51:4 32:3-4 Gen. 39:9
1. Sexual sin is primarily a sin against God. Ps. 51:4 1 Cor. 6:15-20
 2. Your sin separates you from God. Ps. 32:3-4
 3. Repent quickly and find grace. Ps. 32:5,9
- B. It affects your relationship with your spouse.
1. You are violating your marriage covenant. Eph. 4:25
 2. You are robbing your wife of what is rightfully her possession: All of your sexuality. 1 Co. 7:4
 3. Your attitude towards your wife is affected.
 4. She will be wounded. Trust will break down. Num. 32:23
 5. You put your marriage at risk. Mt. 5:32
- C. It affects others under your influence, especially your children.
1. King David's example. 2 Sam. 13:1ff 16:20-21 1 Ki. 11
 2. Will you be able to provide moral leadership and help when they struggle?
- D. It affects you personally. Pr. 5:11-13,22-23
1. Sin makes you miserable. Ps. 32:3-4
 2. It leads to more sin. James 1:14-15 Pr.
 3. It can lead to sickness or even death. 6:25-35 5:21-23, 11-13 7:22-27 Nu. 32:23 1 Co. 6:9-10
- E. Special considerations for single men.
1. Lust now affects your relationship with your future spouse.
 2. If this area is out of control, you are not ready for marriage.
 3. Make good deposits in your "marriage bank".
 4. Getting married will not solve your lust problems.
- IV. Guard yourself from lust.
- A. Draw near to God.
1. Rules alone will not change you.
 2. Delight yourself in God! Isa. 55:1-2 Pr. 9:1-6 7:4-5
 3. Remember who you are in Christ. Rom. 6:11ff
 4. Guard your heart. Pr. 4:23 Ps. 51:10
 5. Seek the Lord's help in times of temptation. 1 Cor. 10:13
 6. Stay busy doing the work He has given you. Mt. 6:33 2 Sam.

The Pain of Pornography with Dr. Newheiser

The Pain of Porn.

Jim Newheiser

I. Introduction.

- A. A growing problem, but not a new problem. Mt. 5:28
- B. A widespread problem among professing Christians.
- C. The key to sexual purity.
 - 1. See sex as God sees it.
 - 2. Heart purity. [Pr. 4:23](#)
 - 3. People are sexually immoral because they don't know God. I Th. 4:3-5
- D. Three major sin issues – idolatry, lies, narcissism.

II. What Sex is For: Positively.

- A. God created sex as good.
 - 1. To express the oneness of the marriage covenant. Gen. 2:24 4:1
 - 2. To produce children. Gen. 1:27-18 Ps. 127
 - 3. For the mutual enjoyment of husband and wife. [Prov. 5:18-18](#)
Deut. 24:5 [Heb. 13:4](#) [Song of Solomon 1:2,13-16](#) 7:1-10 4:1-7 5:10-16
- B. Evil is not merely the opposite of good, but the perversion of the good.
 - 1. The opposite of sexual sin is not no sex, but “good sex”.
 - 2. The opposite of good sex (within marriage) is not no sex, but perverse sex.
 - 3. Lust and pornography dehumanize sex.
- C. God's command is that you direct all of your sexual energy (including thoughts) towards your spouse. Mt. 5:27-28 Pr. 5:15-17 6:25 7:25 Song 4:12-15 .
 - 1. Don't try to excuse yourself by narrowing the definition of adultery.
 - 2. Solo sex is a violation of God's design. I Thess. 4:3-6 I Co. 7:3
 - a. Sex is to be relational and other-focused.
 - b. Lust is isolating – a poor substitute for intimacy.
 - 3. Lust and pornography are enslaving. John 8:34 Rom. 6:16 2 Pet.

(lose weight, quit drinking or smoking, etc.)? Mt. 12:43-45
Rom. 14:23 I Co. 10:31 Heb. 11:6

- 2. Your standing in Christ is the foundation for the changed life you want to live. Rom. 6:11 Col. 3:1ff 2 Pe. 1:3-4 Gal. 3:3
 - 3. Understanding your union with Christ is the key to your growth in holiness. Ro. 6:1ff
 - 4. The gospel is life-changing and liberating – a new identity. I Co. 6:9-11 2 Cor. 5:17
 - a. Christ is better than the idols/sins which tempt you. Isa. 55:1-2 John 4:10 7:38 6:35,48ff Gen. 39:9 Prov. 9:1ff Ps. 34:8
 - b. Christ empowers you to bear good fruit. John 15:1ff Gal. 2:20 5:16ff
 - G. Change also involves effort.
 - 1. Some wrongfully stop with the indicatives of what God has done for us, while neglecting the imperatives of what God calls us to do. John 14:15
 - 2. God's Word calls us to exert effort towards obedience. Rom. 12:1ff 6:12ff Eph. 4:1ff Col. 3:1ff John 15:1ff I Jo. 2:6,10 Mt. 5:29-30 7:24-27 Js. 1:22 Mark 8:34
 - 3. Our motive for obedience is crucial. John 14:15 I Co. 6:20 Phil. 3:9
 - H. Ultimately we are dependent upon God's grace for change.
 - 1. Sometimes change doesn't take place because the person is not yet regenerate. John 15:2,6 I Jo. 2:3-4 Mt. 7:16ff Phil. 1:6
 - 2. God is the author of change – personal revival. John 3:8 15:5 Ps. 85:6 119:25,37,40,88,107,149,154,159 Mt. 7:7
 - 3. God uses means to accomplish change. Heb. 4:12-13 Ps. 119:67,71
- #### IV. What help can we offer to those who struggle with same sex attraction?
- A. We should reflect Jesus' compassion for our fellow sinners. Mt. 9:36 11:28-30 Heb. 2:17 I Tim. 5:8-17 Js. 1:19 Prov. 20:5
 - B. Our objective is not to merely see people changed from homosexual sinners to heterosexual sinners (fornicators and adulterers).
 - 1. Nor are we merely seeking to make people more moral.
 - 2. The gospel gives us a new identity and sets us free from slavery to sin. Rom. 6:1ff I Co. 6:9-11 2 Co. 5:17 Mark 8:34

es?

- C. What should you do if your children make romantic choices which you believe to be less than ideal? II Co. 6:14 I Cor. 9:5 7:39,16 I Ki. 11:4 Heb. 13:4 Rom. 12:18ff
 - 1. You are free to love people who have sinned against you. Gen. 45 Mt. 5:43ff
 - 2. You cannot participate in sin. Rom. 14:23
 - D. How can you be an in-law without becoming an outlaw? Genesis 2:24 I Pe. 4:8
 - E. What if your adult child remains single? I Co. 7:1,8,32-33
- VI. Conclusion.

- 5. Stories can be very powerful.
- E. Summary (Sam Alberry)
 - 1. We can know without a doubt who we are not because our feelings tell us, but because He tells us. John 4:29
 - 2. We do not have to discern our identity; we receive it as a gift of God.
 - 3. Jesus makes it clear where true satisfaction can be found. John 6:35,41,48
- VI. Transgender.
 - A. Defining terms
 - 1. Biological sex - reproductive anatomy (visible at birth).
 - 2. Gender - cultural and social norms about what it means to be male or female
 - 3. Gender identity - my sense/experience of myself as male or female
 - 4. Cisgender -- there is agreement between biological sex, gender, and gender identity.
 - 5. Gender dysphoria -- when biological sex, gender and gender identity don't agree.
 - 6. Transgender - a term for anyone who would wish to present their external gender and their gender identity-hatred of their body
 - 7. Intersex – homaphrodite – born with no clear biological sex.
 - B. What transgender people do.
 - 1. Gender bending.
 - 2. Cross dressing.
 - 3. Hormone therapy.
 - 4. Gender reassignment
- VII. Understanding the problem of worldview (Lambert).
 - A. What we have in common.
 - 1. We all believe in authority.
 - 2. We all believe in morality.
 - 3. We all seek conversion.
 - B. Transgender.
 - 1. Authority is their own sense of self.
 - 2. Morality – this inward sense of self must be expressed outward-

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- ly.
3. Conversion – others must accept them as they define themselves.
- C. Biblical perspective.
1. Authority – The Bible. Ps. 119:11
 2. Morality – Gen. 1:27 Rom. 1:18ff.
 3. Gospel.
- VIII. What do we do?
- A. Compassion -- We are co-sinners. We too were slaves. Rom. 6:16
 - B. God changes hearts and lives. Titus 2:11 I Co. 6:9-11
- Instead of changing the body to match the mind, change the mind to match the body. .
- IX. Questions
- A. Should I go to a homosexual wedding? Rom. 14:23
 - B. What if I have a friend who says that he has homosexual desires, but doesn't act upon them?
 - C. How should I respond if someone claims that God made him or her homosexual?
 - D. Can a person be a church officer if he has a child who is homosexual? I Tim. 3:1ff
 - E. When does homosexuality become a matter for church discipline? Mt. 18:15ff I Co. 5:1ff
- Given that the church tolerates so much other sin (divorce, covetousness, etc.) why can't we allow for homosexual unions?
- F. How can we help a child who has same sex attraction? Prov. 4:23 Gal. 5:16ff Mt. 5:29
 - G. What about those who have same sex attraction which is not primarily sexual?
 - H. How do we engage in discussions with unbelievers about this topic without sounding judgmental? Isa. 55:6-7
 - I. How do we help friends whose children are struggling with same sex attraction?
 - J. How can a Christian counselor ethically counsel LGBTQ clients while still holding to your beliefs?
 - K. Should you refer to a transgender person according to his/her preferred pronoun?

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- ance. II Co. 7:10
 3. Don't enable a sinful lifestyle. I Sam. 2:12-17,22-25 3:13 4:11 Luke 15:13ff Pr. 16:26 19:15 10:4 II Thess. 3:10
- C. Help should be offered wisely and lovingly. Mt. 7:6 Pr. 1:7ff 4:23 Mark 7:21ff
1. Establish expectations as a condition for your assistance. Pr. 13:20 20:1,20 6:6ff 10:5 I Th. 5:7 I Co. 15:33
 2. Does this somehow violate their adult status? Pr. 26:3 I Co. 13:11
 3. What help can you offer a non-Christian child?
- D. What should you do about an incorrigible child? Deut. 21:18-21 Pr. 19:18 29:1
1. Recognize that there is such a thing as an incorrigible child.
 2. You should be concerned about the effect he may have upon others. I Co. 15:33
 3. You must be prepared to take drastic measures and allow them to experience the full consequences of their sinful actions. I Pe. 2:14 Rom. 13:1-7 Pr. 19:15,18
 4. God sometimes uses hardship to bring a child to repentance. Luke 15:18,21
- E. When should you give financial help to your grown children? Pr. 13:22 19:14 20:21 22:7 Nu. 26:53 32:18 I Ki. 21:3f II Co. 12:14 Luke 12:15ff Eph. 1:11 Heb. 9:15
- V. What is your role as your adult children approach courtship and marriage?
- A. Ideally you will have significant positive involvement in your child's courtship. Gen. 2:24 I Co. 7:36-38(?) Ex. 22:16-17 Dt. 22:13-21 Pr. 31:30 3:5-6 Jer. 17:9
 - B. What authority do parents have in their children's choice of a spouse?
 1. If you don't have your child's trust (heart) you will have relatively little influence on their choice of a spouse.
 2. Parents do not have the right to impose marriage on their child. I Co. 7:39
 3. Parents must be careful not to provoke their children to anger. Col. 3:21
 4. Under what circumstances may a child go against parental wish-

- A. The phenomenon of the “twixter” (or boomerang kids/ aduolescents).
 - B. What are valid reasons for an adult child to stay home? Prov. 10:4b Ex. 20:12 Mt. 15:5-6 I Tim. 5:4
 - 1. Sometimes children move home because of extraordinary circumstances.
 - 2. Young adults should only be living at home if there is a clear goal.
 - C. Some young people sinfully postpone the responsibilities of adulthood: vocation, marriage, and children. Prov. 6:5-11 12:11 28:19 II Th. 3:10-13 I Cor. 6:9-10 7:9
 - D. Parents contribute to this problem.
 - 1. They fail to prepare their children to be on their own. Proverbs 1:8
 - 2. Some refuse to let go of their kids. Gen. 2:24
 - 3. They inadvertently enable sinful behavior. Pr. 15:19 6:11 10:4 20:13 16:26
 - 4. They are afraid to take strong steps to deal with their kids. I Sam.2:22-25
 - E. What are the challenges of having an adult child living with his parents?
 - F. What should be expected of an adult child living at home? II Thess. 3:6-12 Eph. 4:28 Pr. 10:1,4-5 23:20,30-31 26:3 Heb. 13:4 I Th. 5:7
- IV. What do you do when your adult kids get into trouble (substance abuse, debt, crime)?
- A. Whose fault is it when adult kids go bad?
 - 1. Parents are responsible to raise their children in the discipline and admonition of the Lord. Pr. 22:6 23:13-14 29:15,17 I Sam. 2:12ff
 - 2. Children are responsible for the choices they make. Pr. 20:11,20 30:11,17 Ezek. 18:5-13 Isa. 1:2 Jer. 2:30 Eph. 6:2
 - 3. You are dependent upon God’s sovereign grace for the souls of your children. Lu. 12:51-53 Gen. 4:1-9 Ps. 51:5 Eph. 2:1ff John 6:44
 - B. Adult children often look to their parents to bail them out.
 - 1. You need wisdom. Js. 1:5 Pr. 11:14.
 - 2. Learn to distinguish between worldly sorrow and true repent-

- X. Recommended resources
 - A. Alberry, Sam, Is God anti-gay?
 - B. Burk, Denny and Lambert Heath, Transforming Homosexuality
 - C. Butterfield, Rosaria, Openness Unhindered
 - D. Butterfield, Roasria, Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert
 - E. De Young, Kevin, What does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality
 - F. Maxham, Coming Out: Compassion and Truth for Freedom from Homosexuality
 - G. Welch, Homosexuality: Speaking the Truth in Love
 - H. Roberts, Vaughan, Talking Points: Transgender
 - I. Walker, Andrew, God and the Transgender Debate

You Never Stop Being a Parent

You Never Stop Being a Parent: Parenting Your Adult Children

- I. Introduction.
- II. What can you do to prepare your children for adulthood?
 - A. The goal of parenting is to make your children ready to live wisely (on their own). Pr. 4:3-4 20:5 I Cor. 13:11 Col. 3:21 Phil. 2:3-4
 - B. What can you do to make your children ready to live on their own?
 1. Teach them to fear God and to live for His glory. Pr. 1:7 3:7-8 Dt. 6:5 Mt. 22:37
 2. Teach them to put others ahead of themselves. Mt. 22:39 Phil. 2:3-4
 3. Prepare them to pursue a vocation so they can work hard to care for a family. Prov. 6:5-11 24:30-34 26:12-16 12:11 13:11 22:29 10:4-5 28:19 14:23
 4. Teach them financial wisdom. Pr. 6:8 13:11 21:5 22:7 6:1-5 3:27-28,9-10
 5. Teach them God's design for marriage (and sex). Prov. 5:1-23 6:20-35 7:1
 6. Teach them to choose their companions carefully. Pr. 1:10-19 13:20 22:24-25 23:20 I Cor. 15:33 Ps. 1:1
 7. Teach them to resist temptation. Pr. 29:25 2:12-15 20:1 31:4-5
 - C. What authority does a parent have over an adult child?
 1. Parents must recognize that their relationship with their adult child is very different from what it was when the child was small. Eph. 6:1ff I Cor. 13:11
 2. One of the biggest mistakes made by Christian parents is to treat their young adult offspring as if they were still small children. Col. 3:21
 3. When your child is married, he/she is in a new family unit and no longer under your authority. Gen. 2:24
 4. Are single adults also free from parental authority? I Co. 9:5 7:39 13:11 John 2:3ff 9:19-21 Num. 32:11
- III. What do you do when your adult children come back home (or never leave)?

tracts)

V. Concluding Applications.

- A. Both parents and children are responsible. Prov. 23:13-16
- B. There is hope for failed parents and rebellious kids. Luke 15:17-20

Discussion Questions

1. What factors determine how kids turn out?
2. What should parents do to prevent their children from rebelling?
3. What should you do when you sense your child is rebelling?
4. What investigation may be necessary in order to understand the scope of your problem?
5. How can you know if your child is a Christian?
6. What can you do to protect the rest of your family from the effects of a rebellious child?
7. Who are some allies you can enlist to help you with your wayward child?
8. How do you discipline a wayward child?
9. How can you show love to a rebellious child?
10. When is a child considered incorrigible?
11. What can you do with an incorrigible child?
12. When can you let a wayward child back into the home?

When Good Kids Make Bad Choices

Dealing with Rebellious Teens: When Good Kids Make Bad Choices

I. Introduction and review.

II. How can parents prevent their kids from getting out of control?

- A. Discipline them while there is hope. (See Shepherding a Child's Heart, by Ted Tripp and Withhold not Correction, by Bruce Ray) Eph. 6:4 Gen. 8:21 Ps. 51:5 Prov. 22:15 29:15 13:24 23:13-14 13:24 19:18 Heb. 12:6-9
 - B. Train them in the Word. Dt. 6:4-9,20-25 Pr. 6:20-23 II Ti. 3:15
 - C. Don't provoke them to anger. Col. 3:21 (See The Heart of Anger, by Lou Priolo)
 - 1. Overdiscipline I John 5:3 I Th. 2:11 I Co. 13:11 Luke 12:48 Js. 1:19-20 Mt. 5:21-23 Pr. 18:3,17 Eph. 4:25,29 Jc. 1:19 Pr. 20:5 Deut 6:20 Ps. 103:13-14
 - 2. Underdiscipline. Prov. 19:18 29:15 I Sam. 3:13
 - 3. Using worldly methodologies instead of the Bible! II Ti. 3:1-2
 - 4. Other ways to frustrate and embitter your children: inconsistency, favoritism, comparison, hypocrisy, broken promises, lack of marital harmony, neglect, selfishness. Ge. 25:28 Mt. 5:23-24,37 Ps. 15:4 Col. 3:9 Eph. 5:22-33 II Sa. 14:28
 - D. Can a man be a Church leader if he is having trouble with his children? I Tim. 3:4
 - 1. Must an Elder's children be believers? Titus 1:6 1:9 3:8 II Tim. 2:2 I Tim. 1:12
 - 2. While a man can be expected to discipline his children, he cannot be held responsible for their election and regeneration.
 - 3. Is a man responsible for the actions of his adult children who are out of the home?
- III. What should parents do when their children rebel? 19:18
- A. First deal with yourself.
 - 1. Confess your own sinful failures. Pr. 13:24 23:13-14 Col. 3:21 Mt. 7:1f 5:23-24
 - 2. Recognize the sin of your child for what it is. Pr. 22:15a

3. Seek godly counsel. Pr. 11:14 15:22 20:18
 4. Be prepared to face the reality that your child may not be a believer.
 5. Pray and fast. Only God can change a rebellious heart of a child (or a parent). Matt. 17:21 Mark 9:29
- B. Take care of the rest of your family.
1. Be sure you and your spouse are united.
 2. Watch out for your other children.
- C. Mount a discipline offensive.
1. Be prepared to do some investigation.
 2. Remove bad influences from his life. Prov. 1:10f 13:20 Mt. 5:29-30 I Co. 15:33
 3. Establish clear and reasonable expectations.
 - a. Curfew. Pr. 2:13 7:9 I Thess. 5:7
 - b. Entertainment standards: TV, movies, music, computer (internet/games). Pr. 5:8 Rom. 13:14 Eph. 5:3
 - c. Manner of listening and speaking to parents. Pr. 19:26 20:20 30:17 Ex. 20:12
 - d. Church involvement. Pr. 8:1f Heb. 10:24-25
 - e. Treatment of siblings. Pr. 18:6 12:16 Phil. 2:3-4
 - f. Substance abuse. Pr. 23:29-35 20:1 Eph. 5:18
 - g. Work/school performance. (Not to remain idle). Pr. 6:6-11
 - h. Contribution to family: chores, finances, etc. Pr. 10:5 Eph. 4:28
 - i. Participation in family activities (including family worship). Pr. 1:8 Dt. 6:7
 - j. Companions/use of phone. Pr. 13:20 14:7 22:24 I Co. 15:33
 - k. Dress code. Deut. 22:5
 4. Define and enforce consequences. Pr. 23:13-14 19:18
 5. Appeal to your child on a heart level. Pr. 22:15 2:2,10 3:1,3 4:23 6:21 11:20 14:14 19:3 28:26 1:7 Mark 7:21f
 6. It may be wise to have your child examined by a physician to see if there are physiological elements which are complicating the situation.
 7. Don't undermine your own efforts.
- D. Mount a love offensive.
1. Make it clear that your love is unconditional. Mt. 5:44-45 I John 4:19

2. Find ways you can show love to your kids without compromising your standards.
 3. Be ready to forgive.
 4. Never give up!
- IV. How you can handle incorrigible kids? Pr. 19:18 29:1 Dt. 21:18f Ex. 21:15 Le. 20:9
- A. Beware of two extremes.
1. Giving up too soon because of personal hurt feelings, anger and bitterness.
 2. Tolerating and enabling sin.
- B. Under the Old Covenant, out of control (incorrigible) kids were put to death Pr. 19:18 Dt. 21:18-21
1. It is possible for a child to be incorrigible (out of control).
 2. Children (minors) are held responsible for their sinful choices.
 3. We are to be concerned about the corrupting influence of an incorrigible child upon the church (and the home).
 4. We must be prepared to take drastic measures.
 5. God finally reaches a point at which He deals with Israel this way. Jer. 3:8 7:28
- C. New Covenant applications.
1. Apostates and rebels are no longer executed by the covenant community.
 2. Bring them before the church leaders: excommunication. I Cor. 5:1f Mt. 18:15f
 3. Bring them before the civil leaders: criminal penalties. Mt. 18:17
 4. Put them out of the house.
- D. The goals of drastic measures. Rom. 12:18ff
1. Protection for those who remain: Pr. 1:10f I Co. 5:6
 2. The Lord may even use this hardship, like church discipline, to drive your child to his senses. Pr. 3:11-12 I Co. 5:5
- E. When can they come home?
1. Beware of being manipulated and becoming *enablers* of their sinful lifestyle.
 2. The child must be repentant. Luke 15:18,21 II Co. 7:10-11 Learn the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow over sin.
 3. He/she must be willing to follow the house rules. (Written con-