

# Family Legacy Institute

Tools For Families Building Godly Legacies

## Biblical Sexuality, Part II The Christian Mind

A Bible Study for *Mature* Christ-followers

~by Dr. John P. Splinter

In Romans 12:2, the Apostle Paul wrote, *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will” (NIV).*

Our culture is under a massive attack, aimed at control of the mind. Three philosophies predominate this attack: Relativism, materialism, and hedonism. Relativism says, “I will determine what is true.” Materialism says, “I deserve the very best.” And hedonism says, “I want to have a good time.”

The sexualization of our culture is a common black thread in the tapestries of all three philosophies. Satan’s first challenge against God, was to lead Adam and Eve to question God ~ to question His integrity, and his knowledge. It challenges God’s truth, asking, “Did God *really* say no sex of any kind outside of marriage?” It leads us toward the desire to “own” people and experiences that morally should not be ours to own. And it dances to the “have a good time” tune.

Yet as we said in the previous chapter, the real battle is not somewhere “out there” in the culture, away from where we live. The real battle is right in front of us, in our homes, in our churches. In fact, let’s take it even closer to home: The real battle takes place every day within our own minds, long before our bodies actually reach the battle field. The battle is found in what our minds desire. After we make that decision, the rest is fallout.

The bottom line issue begins within our minds: “Do we desire Jesus above all, or is there something else we’re willing to insert into his place in our hearts.” Of course, most Christians are quick to answer, “Oh, yes, I desire Jesus above all else.” Yet statistics belie this assumption. Here are a few research conclusions:

- Divorce rates are slightly higher in churches, than in the world
- When controlled for age and sex, there’s no statistical difference in the use of pornography between men and women in churches, as compared with men and women not in churches
- Kids from evangelical homes become sexually active at earlier ages than those from non-evangelical homes
- As many as 40% of pastors have sought out pornography, 33% within the past year<sup>1</sup>

So let's ask the question again: "Do we desire Jesus above all?" Really? Or is that just "the right answer" that we give when someone asks the question? Obviously, a person can be a sincere Christ-follower and still sin ~ we all fit that category. Yet in this Bible study we're talking about the mind, and what truly controls it.

The Apostle Paul wrote about slavery. He wrote in an era in which slavery was common practice in the Roman Empire. So everyone knew what he meant when he said, ***"Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey?" (Rom. 6:16).*** If research is accurate, it would appear that 50% of the men in churches are in one way or another enslaved to pornography. Add to that, 20-30% of women using porn, and it suddenly becomes a fairly startling thing to ponder. Spiritual slavery has a more common name ~ more socially acceptable ~ it's called "addiction." *It means that a person has lost their ability to stop certain sexual practices that are displeasing to God.*

Most sex addicts hate their addiction ~ but after scores of attempts they have come to the realization that they are unable to make it go away. If that person is you, then it's time to seek help. Help is available. (In St. Louis, contact First Light, 314-749-4937.)

Listen to the word of Paul again: ***"Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:12-14).***

A person may not have the ability to keep sin from reigning in their mortal body. The human brain can become so bio-chemically addicted to the hormones released in illicit sexual acting out, that they are unable to break the addiction. In fact, this is a common problem for about half of....