

**Summer 2018**  
**Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study – "Desires"**  
**June 12, 2018**

**I John 2: 15 – 17 ESV**

15 Do not love (agapao) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love (agape) of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires (epithymia) of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

*Note: Men, the two verses above will be central to our teaching during this series. Would you consider taking the time to add these verses to your daily devotional time, and perhaps even see if you are able to memorize them?*

**John 3: 16 ESV**

16 For God so loved (agapao) the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**Love: Agapao (Greek)** (Agapao is a verb. Agape is a noun)

1. of persons: to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly
1. of things: to be well pleased, to be contented at or with a thing

**Desires: Epithymia (Greek)**

- desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust

**Romans 13: 11 – 13 ESV**

11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires (epithymia).

Sexual sin brings desolation. It promises excitement and pleasure, but delivers discontent and insatiable craving, often bringing ruin to God's blessings: family, friendships, vocation, and health. It leads to an insane life. What seems like a purely personal sin is always relationally destructive. In our guilt we isolate ourselves or lash out in anger. We compound our sin as we manipulate and lie to cover our tracks. While culture tells us that sexual sin is a sign of strength, we know the stark contrast between our fantasy life and our struggles to cope with the real world. As Christians, our sin drives us into hiding, and we begin to live wearing a mask. The disconnect between our private life and public façade perpetuates our insecurity. (Sexual Sanity for Men by David White. p. 8)

What to note about the quote from David White's book:

- Sexual sin begins with "desire" (epithymia)
- We could take out sexual sin and put any other sin in its place and the quote would still apply to all of us, even if we do not have an issue with sexual sin (i.e. pornography).
- His identification of "covering our tracks" is true, and a scary thought because most of us have become so good at it that we don't even know when we are doing it.
- Hiding is rampant in our culture, even in the Church (which includes PCPC)

It has been said that the cross shows us two truths simultaneously. When we see the infinite length to which God needed to go to redeem us, we realize we're far worse than we ever imagined. The cross is a bloody mess for a reason. But in the same moment, because the Father was willing to offer up his Son and Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before him, Jesus' sacrifice shows that we are more loved, cherished and delighted in than we would have ever dared to hope. Understanding the gospel means holding both of these truths together simultaneously. (Sexual Sanity for Men by David White. p. 119)

What to note about the quote from David White's book:

- There is no mention of sexual sin in the quote.
- It covers all of us.
- We have no need to diminish that we are far worse than we could ever imagine.
  - We can't really point our finger at the porn addict.
- We have every reason to relish in how deeply loved we are.
  - We can only scratch our heads and rejoice in a deep sense of worship.

### **Questions to Ponder around the table:**

1. What, if anything, jumped out at you specifically this morning?
2. How aware are you of your "desires"?
3. Why is it that we all have such a tendency to hide and isolate?
4. How effective are you at holding the two truths simultaneously?
5. What keeps you from being able to hold those two truths simultaneously?

### **Question to Ponder at home:**

1. Is it time to come out of hiding?

*Note: Men, now that you have an idea of where this study will be going this summer, is there a friend or family member you need to personally invite to join in with you/us in this study? We are on a journey toward freedom. Also, if you need someone to talk to please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I would be delighted to speak with you.*

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