

# ***“Straight Talk about Overcoming Sexual Sin”***

Wheelersburg Baptist Church Father’s Day, Sunday evening June 20, 2010

## I. Identifying the Question: *How can we overcome sexual sin?*

- A. We must believe that sexual sin is an abuse of God’s good gift of sex (Gen. 2:25).**
- B. We must believe that sexual sin is unacceptable (Eph. 5:3).**
- C. We must believe that sexual sin can be overcome by the power of Christ and His cross (1 Cor. 6:9-11).**
- D. We must believe that God intends to use us to restore a brother or sister caught in sin (Gal. 6:1).**

## II. Identifying the Question behind the Question: *How can we overcome **any** sin that is presently enslaving us?*

### **A. Beware of faulty views about how we change.**

- 1. *The “Holy Zap” view*
- 2. *The “Let go and let God” view*  
\*\*This view says it’s all up to God.
- 3. *The “Pull up your bootstraps” view*  
\*\*This view says it’s all up to me.

### **B. Understand that change is like a walk. It’s not a zap, but a step by step path we tread as we learn to walk in the light (1 John 1:6).**

## III. Identifying God’s Prescription for Overcoming Sexual Sin: *We must take the gospel seriously by following the pattern God gives us in the book of Ephesians.*

### **A. Step One: Deal with positional matters first (Ephesians 1-3).**

- 1. *If a person is not in Christ, he cannot change in ways that please God.*
- 2. *If a person is in Christ, he can change and must change (1:3-4).*

### **B. Step Two: Deal with practical implications next (Ephesians 4-6).**

- 1. *Get serious about your theology, particularly the theology of progressive sanctification (Eph 4:20-21).*
- 2. *Get serious about your responsibility to put off and put on (Eph 4:22-24).*
  - a. This involves our thinking and desires.
  - b. This involves living by God’s Word rather than our feelings.
- 3. *Get serious about dealing with the specifics of life (Eph 4:25-5:7).*

Key: When dealing with sexual sin, this requires radical amputation (Matt. 5:27-30).

- 4. *Get serious about putting on thanksgiving (Eph 5:3-4).*
  - a. It’s what a person engaged in sexual sin isn’t doing (Eph. 5:3-4a; Rom. 1:21).
  - b. It’s what a person who wants to get rid of sexual sin must do (Eph 5:4).

\*\*The bottom line: We need to put off every aspect of sexual sin (in word, thought, desire, and action)

and put on the practice of thanksgiving.

5. *Get serious about the fact that the battle doesn't end until we see the Lord (5:8-20).*
6. *Get serious about Christ-exalting, cross-centered, grace-motivated worship (Eph 5:18-20).*  
Key: At its core, sexual sin reveals a worship problem. When we engage in sexual sin we are worshipping the creature rather than the Creator.
7. *Get serious about the local church, for it is the God-ordained environment for lasting change (5:21).*

#### IV. Getting Intentional: Some Homework Assignments for Putting On Thanksgiving

1. Make a list of 50 blessings God has given you and express thanks to Him for each every day.
2. Memorize and meditate on a verse about the cross every month.  
Suggestions: Galatians 6:14; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6
3. Listen to cross-centered teaching and music during your commute time.
4. Sing a song about the cross every day.
5. Make corporate worship a priority every week.
6. Since sexual sin is self-focused, do something to serve someone else every day for the honor of Christ.

#### V. Some Helpful Resources

Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness*  
C. J. Mahaney, *Humility: True Greatness*  
C. J. Mahaney, *The Cross Centered Life*  
David Powlison, *Pornography: Slaying the Dragon*  
Jeffrey S. Black, *Sexual Sin: Combatting the Drifting and Cheating*  
Kris Lundgaard, *The Enemy Within*  
Steve Gallagher, *At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry*  
Jeff Colon, *From Ashes to Beauty: Spiritual Truths for Rebuilding & Revitalizing Your Marriage*  
Brad Brandt, *Lead Us Not Into Temptation* sermon series,  
transcripts at [www.wheelersburgbaptist.com](http://www.wheelersburgbaptist.com)