

## **SYSTEM BREAKERS - DISCONNECT FROM SEXUAL IMPURITY**

Lesson 1: Tuesday, July 11, 9:45-10:15

Be a System Breaker on the world's view on Sexual Purity

A circuit breaker is an electrical mechanism designed purely to protect an electrical circuit. If too much current or voltage comes from the source of power to the circuit, the breaker pops open to stop the flow of current to everything supplied on that circuit. Light bulbs will not pop, motors will not burn out, wires will not melt because the breaker has done its job. The metaphor of a circuit breaker is a great picture of how the Holy Spirit can do a work in our lives to STOP the dangerous current of what the world is flowing through us into our souls and spirits. Nowhere is this more important than in the area of sexual purity.

For many reasons, the world is pouring seriously dangerous levels of everything the Bible and Jesus tell us we need to avoid, in an attempt to destroy our spirits and souls and send them to Hell. Hollywood and TV networks pour as much sexual information at us as they can through commercials, weekly programs, movies and pay-per-view television. Satan uses these tools to do his work....drawing us away from Jesus, the church and our daily walk with Him.

This is the third year in a row we have dealt with this topic with our teens at Youth Conference. Must be a reason for that, huh? (See the previous two years' lessons below as a reference....we don't need to teach the lesson from the same perspective, but the information is a good tool to know more and see where we have come from before.) There is probably no more important, critical and sensitive topic we could discuss that has greater relevance than this topic.

We have looked at David and his downfall with Bathsheba. He was where he shouldn't have been, he looked where he shouldn't have looked and when he knew he was being tempted with what he should have resisted (the breaker should have popped, cutting off the source of his temptation), he gave in to the temptation and caused a whole nation to suffer the consequences, as well as his son, his generations and his faith. We looked at Joseph, in contrast to David. When Potiphar's wife lured him with her own sexual desires, he said "no", he resisted the urge to fulfill lustful desires and even RAN from the temptation (what to do when the Holy Spirit pops a breaker in our spiritual lives to warn us of the dangerous temptations in our lives that would drive us to destruction). He paid a high price for turning from that temptation. But in the end, God rewarded his faithfulness to Him by lifting him up to a place of prominence in the kingdom.

Take a look at the example of Samson in this year's lesson. Read Judges 13-16. The similarities to our own experiences are the reason his life is included in the Word. Israel, like America today, did evil in the sight of the Lord (13:1). Samson was chosen to be an instrument of God (vrs 5) as a Nazarite (we too are chosen to be "peculiar" people by the Lord). He was sent to "deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines" (much like God is choosing many among us to rescue America from the hands of those who would enslave us.

Notice how Samson's life was supposed to be different:

1. No haircuts, vrs 5 "no razor shall come upon his head"
2. "No wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean" vrs 7
3. "Child shall be a Nazarite (dedicated to God) from the womb to the day of his death." (Vrs 7)

From Matthew Henry's Commentary: A Nazarite was one who made "...a vow of separation from the world and devotedness to the services of religion....They must not drink wine or strong

drink, nor eat grapes. Those who separate themselves to God, must not gratify the desires of the body, but keep it under control....They must not cut their hair. They must neither poll their heads, nor shave their beards; this was the mark of Samson being a Nazarite. This signified neglect of the body, and of the ease and ornament of it. Those who separate themselves to God, must keep their consciences pure from dead works, and not touch unclean things. All the days of their separation they must be holy to the Lord.”

From the beginning of Samson’s “work”, he neglected and even turned away from his vows as a Nazarite. The obvious main deviation was his inability to resist his thirst for women. He first married a woman from among those he was supposed to free his people (14:3), the Philistines. After the debacle with her, and giving that wife to his best man, he went in to a harlot/prostitute (16:1). That almost got him killed by the Philistines. The most famous incident, of course, is the story of his relationship with Delilah. History suggests that she was also a harlot. She was from the Valley of Sorek, an area famous for the best vineyards in the region, suggesting that maybe on top of turning his back on his total dedication to God, Samson probably violated the principle of no wine or drink...he had already violated the unclean rule when he ate honey from the dead carcass. All that remained now was the hair. We all know the rest of the story. Delilah tempted Samson with his lust for her until she ended up shaving all his hair off. Apart from the final act of his life, where God restored his strength just long enough to kill more Philistines in his death than in all the rest of his life, Samson’s life demonstrated a life given over to the passions that his life was dedicated to resist.

Samson’s “spiritual circuit breaker” was always popping. It always pops from the small things first. With David, it popped when he wasn’t in the field with his army. With Samson, it popped when he started violating the conditions of his calling....touching unclean carcasses, creating mischief and always pushing away the dedication to the Lord he was born with. Instead of detecting the source of why the breaker was popping, David and Samson both fed their lustful desires by seeking fulfilment of them.

The worst thing you can do with a popped circuit breaker is reset it, push it back in, and keep on doing what caused it to pop in the first place. While flying jets in the Air Force and then for UPS, if a breaker popped, you were allowed only ONE RESET in an attempt to find out what was causing it to pop. If you ignore the problem and just keep resetting breakers that have popped, all you do is keep feeding that destructive power source to places the power should not go to. Pilots and mechanics have started fires and burned up airplanes because they didn’t stop the destructive flow of electrical power going to the wrong place. The same was true for David and Samson.

When David and Samson turned their backs on God and His calling in their lives and pursued SIN, a spiritual “circuit breaker” popped, warning of approaching danger if they didn’t do something about the danger. Joseph saw the danger with encouraging satisfaction of lustful temptations and he stopped it. David and Samson just encouraged it, seeking more of the same. Their actions brought on destruction, death and judgment.

When WE are tempted, especially sexually, we need to take action immediately:

1. **RECOGNIZE.** The breaker popped for a reason. Find the source (temptation) and do not reconnect to deadly sources of power. Say NO to the devil. TURN from wicked ways. Turn the TV off when evil is there. Don't go to movies where we can be tempted by lust. When we are in places where we can be tempted, get away. Don't put yourself in situations where lust is the obvious destination (parking, making out, wearing clothes designed to stir up lust, having sex before marriage.)

2. **REMEMBER** what caused the breaker to pop in the first place. Don't do that again! Samson kept going back for more. Lust for sex is never satisfied. It always demands new. It always demands more. If left unchecked, it leads to deviant sources for satisfaction. Stop it before it destroys and don't go back.

3. **RETURN.** Like Samson, when we give our lives to Jesus, we are "set apart" and dedicated for His purpose and direction. A daily rededication to the principles of our salvation is always critical to our ability to overcome temptation and sin.

If we are going to be successful "SYSTEM BREAKERS", we need to live holy, committed lives to Jesus. This area of sexual purity and resisting this temptation is so critical because it has become so easy to give in to. It can be the very first area Satan attacks because he knows it can be the very first place we will fail. Christians live defeated lives because they never find power in this area. Let us disconnect from this destructive source of power and reconnect to the power of the Holy Spirit that gives us victory in purity.

### **Sexual Purity Lesson from Last Year's Senior Conference**

#### **POSSIBLE IMPOSSIBILITIES**

#### **Impossible to Live a Pure Life**

**Lesson 1: Tuesday, July12, 9:45-10:15**

"It is impossible to live a sexually pure life as a Christian today." With a limited view of history, one could easily say that this is a problem that followers of God have more than ever before. But it doesn't take a whole lot of study of the Bible to find that this single problem has snared more who would follow Him than any other problem of sin.

The lure of homosexual sin that seems so prevalent today, especially in light of so many "LBGT" issues that have demanded our attention lately, is unfortunately nothing new. God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for a sin He described as an abomination to Him.

In Genesis 18:20, God said that "the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, I will go down now and see..." We know from Abraham's pleading that not ten righteous people could be found in all the city. Some liberal theologians have suggested that the sin of Sodom was inhospitality. It does not take much imagination, however, upon reading Gen 19:5 to realize the depravity that the angels were there to examine: "(the men of the city, both old and young) called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who

came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally.” The NIV says, “so that we can have sex with them.” For these sins, God destroyed the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire from heaven.

As followers of the Word of God we do not have to apologize that God created sex for a relationship between one man and one woman. We do not have to cower because our culture demands that we tolerate behavior as acceptable that God does not. Scripture is clear that this problem has always plagued man. Even David, “a man after God’s own heart,” fell to the lure of this temptation with Bathseba. He looked upon her taking a bath on the roof, called for her, had sex with her and then, to cover up his sin, had her husband killed. This sin, which Nathan revealed to him had “despised the commandment of the Lord to do evil in his sight.” (2 Sam 12:9) Because of this sexual sin, God promised that the sword would never leave David’s house, that his illegitimate son would die and that he would be publicly punished. God demands sexual purity from his followers!

The New Testament Christians were anything but immune from this type of temptation. Paul had to warn the early church constantly to “flee from sexual immorality.” He instructs the Corinthian church in 1 Cor 3:16 “...you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you. If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. The temple of God is Holy, which temple you are.” In Chapter 5, Paul reveals that in the Corinthian church there is “sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles – that a man has his father’s wife!” He tells them in verse 11 to “not keep company with anyone NAMED A BROTHER, who is sexually immoral...not to even eat with such a person.” God considers sexual sin so serious that in one instance, Paul instructed the church to throw the person out of the church, turn him over to the devil so that he might be saved, even if only by fire! God treats sexual sin very seriously. Yet, we still have this problem in our day and culture.

We constantly hear of pastors and preachers who cheat on their wives and sleep with other women in the church. In one church of 10,000 members, the pastor destroyed the church when he declared his homosexual sin with another man. One very well known pastor left his wife and married the organist of the church and still preaches today.

The depravity of sexual sin knows no satisfaction. It is not uncommon for Christians in our culture to accept sex before marriage, multiple marriages and divorces, living together before marriage and having children outside of marriage. These sins are rampant in our culture. And if we are to believe statistics, they are just as prevalent inside the church as outside! And the world would accuse the church of being hateful and threaten it legally if we do not accept those sins that God calls abominable. God demands sexual purity in the Old Testament, in the New Testament and in our culture and every other culture today. He calls the act of sex between one man and one woman a HOLY THING and when we treat it as unholy, we stand in danger of great pain and misery and possibly, ultimate judgment.

Because sexual sin is so common, predictable and practically socially acceptable, it is easy for Christians to claim that a life of sexual purity is impossible. Nothing could be further from the truth of the Bible than that claim however. The Scriptures before the one about the body being the temple of God proclaim God’s standards of sexual purity for all His followers: (1 Cor 6:13-18) “...Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them

members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For ‘the two,’ He says, ‘shall become one flesh.’ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.”

Christian, it is NOT too hard a thing to do to be sexually pure! God would not demand it if it were impossible. Maintaining sexual purity is a possible impossibility. It may be hard, but it is not impossible. I would suggest that you consider these three steps toward maintaining sexual purity in your life.

STEP 1: Agree with God about what is right and what is wrong. The Bible is pretty clear about God’s direction that sex be within the bounds of one man and one woman IN MARRIAGE. He does not make exceptions to that. Neither should we. As long as we try to make exceptions to this, we cannot begin to measure up to God’s standards and best for us. Yes, we should love everyone, even if they agree with this standard. But God leaves no room for us to compromise His standards just to accommodate immorality in our society. God’s standards for sexual purity are very clear in the Bible. We need to agree with those standards, accept them as our own and make no exceptions where He has not made exceptions.

STEP 2: We need to deny ourselves. Self-denial is a doctrine rarely found preached in the modern church. It isn’t popular to tell ourselves “no” to the things God tells us are wrong. We live in a permissive society which not only allows immorality but also encourages it and criticizes and condemns those who would disagree. Once we agree with God that sexual immorality is wrong, we definitely need to say no to it! We need to deny ourselves the right to pursue what might “feel good” for a season but what God says will ultimately bring our ruin. Jesus instructed those of us who would want to be His disciples, “if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

As much as we don’t like it, self denial is supposed to be a common discipline in every Christian’s life. When we are tempted to lust after a member of the opposite sex, God wants us to say “no” to that desire. When our boyfriend or girlfriend wants to have sex outside of marriage, we are to say “no”. Without an action of the will on our part to resist sin, we make it impossible for the Lord to do what is only possible through Him in our life. Victory over temptation never comes without first acknowledging our weakness and susceptibility to sin and choosing to resist it. Scripture clearly teaches that we are to resist the devil. “Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

STEP 3: Plug into the power. “I find it so hard to resist temptation! I have failed so many times! I just can’t do it!” You are not the first person to say those things. Paul recognized, as he described in Romans 7 that the things he knew to do, those he couldn’t do; and those things he knew he shouldn’t, those he was always doing. It is only in Romans 8 where Paul reveals the secret to victory over that defeated kind of life. “There is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.” We are totally, utterly useless in overcoming all temptations without the power of the Holy Spirit! With that power, we can do ALL THINGS through Jesus Christ who strengthens me!

I do not like modern translations that have cut the last half of Romans 8:1 off. Yes, some state that it talks about walking in the Spirit later in the chapter. But I have heard way too many sermons telling me that if I am in Christ Jesus, I am not condemned, with absolutely no reference to the supreme need to walk in the Spirit if I am to succeed. Meanwhile, we continue to have Christians wondering why they are so powerless to overcome the temptations that the world and

our culture offer so abundantly. They may have agreed that sexual immorality is wrong. They may have even chosen to say “no” to the temptation. But, without the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit that we can choose to daily walk in, we will continue to be defeated by sin! “If the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you...he will quicken your mortal body by his Spirit who dwells in you.”

God wants victorious followers who daily have victory over sin. He wants young people who wait until they get married to live together and enjoy the closeness of sex. He wants young men and women who, when they see the suggestive magazines or come across movies or TV programs with strong sexual content, choose to turn the other way. He wants us all as Christians to stand for what is right even when the world attacks us for it. The impossibility of sexual purity is possible when we agree with God about what is right and wrong, when we deny ourselves the right to pursue our own fleshly lusts and when we plug into the power of the Holy Spirit by walking with Him every day! God is still making the impossible possible in our lives when we truly commit to Him.

### The Lust-Not Lesson from 2015 Senior Conference

**Wednesday, July 8, 9:30-10:00**

**THE LUST NOT APP**

**Proverbs 6:25 “Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.”**

**2 Sam 11:1-4 “In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab... But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her... Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.”**

**Gen 39:7-12 “And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused... you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.”**

**1 Cor 6:18 “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”**

**2 Tim 2:22 “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”**

**James 4:7-8 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your**

## **hands... and purify your hearts..."**

Relax, the picture in the APP above is supposed to be Adam and Eve. You remember Adam. He was the last man to remember a time when he had never lusted after a woman. Then came the fall. From that time on, men and women have struggled with temptation of the flesh. And many have fallen. If only there was something simple, like an APP we could access every time we were tempted to lust. We could apply the APP and overcome this temptation. Wait! There is such an APP. It isn't on our iPhone....it is in the Word of God! Imagine that!

The Scriptures above give us two examples with different approaches toward handling this temptation. David failed. Joseph didn't...at least in God's eyes. Let's look at them both.

This may be the oldest, most successful temptation for all time. And no matter how many times the story is told, the path tends to always lead to the same place. David was not where Kings were supposed to be. He was at home while his nation was at war. (You might have this temptation when you go where you probably shouldn't be!) David was walking around on his roof....not a bad thing necessarily. Someone caught his eye. He saw someone taking a bath and he looked.....and looked....and looked. From this distance, he must have looked a long time because it tells us he found her very beautiful. He must have lusted at her just by looking because the next thing he did was act on his desire by sending someone to find out about her. Despite the information that this was one of his soldier's wife, he sent messengers to get her. Are we starting to see a pattern here that has always brought bad things? The Bible is pretty clear about what came next. She came to him and he slept with her. We don't need to go into the details about what happened, how many lives were ruined and how enormous a price David had to pay for his sin. We know that the Bible tells us this story to demonstrate that even the man the Bible calls "a man after God's own heart" fell greatly when he gave in to his own lusts. This is a great APP/application of what NOT to do when tempted to lust.

Joseph was different. Another man's wife came after him! We tend to think that this lusting thing is something only men are guilty of. Not true. She cast "longing eyes" on Joseph. We need to NOT have longing eyes. She took action. She told Joseph to lie with her. Joseph's Egyptian boss, who put everything under Joseph's command, wasn't around at the time and the opportunity presented itself. Hey, look what Joseph did: "He refused." He said NO. He recognized this woman as another man's wife. He recognized this act as a great wickedness AND he recognized giving into the temptation as a "sin against God."

Amazing word, "no." Sometimes, just saying no is all it takes to overcome the temptation. Unfortunately, not with this woman. The Scripture tells us "day after day" she spoke to Joseph, demanding the "favor." Day by day, he also refused. Ultimately, when the final test came and Joseph saw no other way out, HE RAN from the temptation and the trap. We know that great harm came to Joseph because he said NO. But we also know from Scripture that he found favor with God.

Now, which one of these examples does God expect us to APPLY to our lives? Faith is great. Grace is wonderful. But look at what the Bible tells us to do in the face of all temptation, not just this one. "Flee fornication." "Flee youthful lusts." "Submit

to God. Resist the devil.....and he will flee from you.” “Draw nigh to God. Cleanse your hands. Purify your heart.”

Want to know what to do when this temptation comes your way? Want to know what truth to APPLY to be an overcomer, a World Changer? Read and Apply the Words above.