



## Session 5 Homework: Confronting Demand Part 2 – In the Church and in Our Hearts

Pornography is a real struggle for many people both in the secular world and within the Church. It is a struggle, however, that hurts not only the individuals themselves, but their families, their communities, and the people filmed in it.

Unless pornography is eradicated, sex trafficking will not end. Pornography drives the demand for trafficking, and pornography is itself trafficking captured on camera. Despite what pornographers may want you to believe, there is no difference between the woman being sold on a street corner and the woman being filmed for a pornographic image or video. Studies have actually shown that the trauma she experiences has been found to be statistically greater when pornography has been made of her.

In the previous session we looked at confronting demand in the world through laws and legislation – but this session we must look within, in our own hearts and in the Church. The beauty of the Gospel of Christ, however, is that while the purpose of laws and legislation is to shame and to punish evil, the gift of God is redemption and reconciliation through Christ Jesus.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20 ESV).*

When we talk about sexual sin, we aren’t talking about a one-time healing, as if from a disease or illness. Sexual sin, temptation, and lust cannot be cured with a pill, or even with one prayer, one day, one time. Fighting temptation is a daily battle, a chronic condition that must be brought before Christ every day. In Romans 7, Paul reminds us that even though we want to do what is right, we still live in the flesh. “For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members” (Romans 7:22-23 ESV).

Yet, the promise of Christ is that if we walk in the Spirit, we will not gratify the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:16 ESV). Walking with the Spirit is daily, it is a lifestyle, a discipline whereby we must every day seek to walk with Christ. In Galatians, Paul writes that, “if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law [...] the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:18, 22-25 ESV).

This homework isn’t about offering a one-time cure. It is about realizing that fighting sexual temptation and being free from sexual sin requires the discipline to make real change in our lives and

to go to God daily for the strength to make that change. This requires that we enter into community and find real accountability for the areas in which we struggle, and we allow God through others to speak truth and grace into our lives.

Let us be clear – we’re not talking about behavior modification or white knuckle strategies that simply tell you to try harder, hold on tighter, and be better. We must recognize both for ourselves and those around us that sexual sin and temptation are real and everyday struggles that don’t simply go away. When we do, we open ourselves up to being transparent with our accountability partners and allowing God to enact real change in our hearts.

The solutions that the world has to offer aren’t that appealing because they do not and cannot deal with the heart. Because of this, the Church must lead in this issue and without which, the problem of trafficking will persist.

This week, do the following:

- Continue to study 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 and what it means to be reconciled to Christ
- Consider where and how you might need and seek greater accountability
- Pray:
  - For the church to be a safe place of transformation and not condemnation
  - For personal purity – look at the areas of your life where you might be struggling and seek God’s truth and strength
  - For breakthrough for men in bondage and for men to have the courage to confess and fight sin