

# The Facilitator

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Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

3/26/17

**Text: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20**

**Title: The Seven Deadly Sins: Lust**

**Teacher: Tim Rice**

*Foreword: This Facilitator will be a little different than normal because lust and sexual sin and abuse can be such hard things to discuss. There will be a lot of questions on here that will likely be uncomfortable for you to talk about with your Community Group, with your kids, and even with your spouse. What I can tell you is; pray first, be sensitive to Holy Spirit's leading, don't force anyone to answer where they're not comfortable, lead in humility, and end the conversation with time in the Gospel in prayer and worship. Soak in the oils of the gospel, so that you won't soak up the muddy waters of sexual sin.*

## **Surrender through Prayer:**

*Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.*

## **Engage with the Sermon**

*Read the passage together*

*Tim continued our series on the Seven Deadly Sins with the sin of Lust. He said lust is a sexual "over-desire," like the craving of a man for salt while he is dying of thirst. It is listed among the more deadly of sins because sexuality is far more powerful and far more damaging than many other sins. Whether we're talking about homosexual practices, pornography, infidelity, or promiscuity, lust is a problem because it violates God's good design. He has a design and plan for the beauty and gift of sexuality in each of our lives that we violate. But the beauty of the Gospel is that we have hope in Jesus, who both covers over the enormity of our brokenness, and satisfies our hunger and longing infinitely more than any earthly pleasure could. And so we can respond by living holy lives, fully dependent on His Spirit, and satisfied in Him.*

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. *(Because of the guilt we often feel for our sexual sin, we can tend to ask, "if you really knew me, could you really love me?" And God's answer is, "Yes". Tim said that because of Jesus' sacrifice we are free to be wrong, and yet loved, even in the areas of our deepest, darkest sin. Tim acknowledged that there were likely people at church who have a history of sexual abuse, pornography, pre-marital sex, homosexuality...etc. Our Community Groups and families must be a safe place for us to be wrong, yet loved.)*

- **Have you ever thought of yourself as someone who struggles with Lust?**
- **Without forcing anyone to tell their story, but also inviting an atmosphere of humility and honesty about the brokenness in our own lives and those around us: (As the leader, start with yourself):**
  - **By show of hands, how many of us have a history with the following: pornography; pre-marital sex; infidelity, homosexuality; sexual abuse.**

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- **Have someone pray for the group, both confessing our sinfulness and brokenness to God, but also in thanksgiving for Jesus' amazing love and forgiveness, and the satisfaction we can find in Him.**
  - **What is an area of your own sexual brokenness that you tend to keep a secret for fear of being rejected or hopeless?**
2. *(Tim said that there are different gradations of sin in scripture, and different punishments for sin for Old Testament Israel as a way of recognizing that certain sins had the potential to be far more damaging than others.)*
- **How have you experienced the lasting effects of sexual sin in your own life?**
  - **How have you seen the lasting effects of sexual sin in the lives of those you love?**
3. *(Tim said that holy living can work itself out in our thoughts, words and deeds. Rather than being reductionistic and defining people by their sexuality, we can see them as being fearfully and wonderfully made. Rather than lecturing we can use our words to confess our own sin in humility. And we can give the gift of friendship to encourage one another daily, and be able to say "you are safe with me, no matter how sinful or broken you are.")*
- **Where do you need to see yourself, or someone else, as more than being defined by the sexual sin you commit or the abuse you've experienced?**
  - **Who do you need to confess to rather than lecture?**
  - **Who do you need to befriend? (Or are you the one who needs the friend?)**

## **A.C.T.S.**

**As Tim advised, "Cut off the stimulus, soak in the Gospel, and get with a friend, to encourage and combat against sexual sin. Spend some time soaking in the Gospel.**

*(Take some time to list 1 or 2 things in each of these areas then spend time in prayer, confession and worship as a group.)*

### **1. ADORATION**

*What draws you to Adore and Praise God for His attributes and Actions?*

*Worship the LORD for His greatness and His goodness ("God is great, God is good..."). Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His good design and His profound love to save sinners like us, and so anyone.*

### **2. CONFESSION**

*How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of?*

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*How have you lived lustfully, craving what God has made more than you have hungered for Him? Confess your folly, your pride and your willfulness to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to truly change your heart.*

### **3. THANKSGIVING**

*What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?*

*Give thanks to Jesus for His beauty and His fullness. Thank Him for beautifully loving you when you were ugly, for sacrificing for you when you were selfish; and thank Him for staying with you when no one else does.*

### **4. SUPPLICATION**

*In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?*

*Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of holiness and faithfulness. Pray that He would help you to be true to God's good design (especially sexually) and that He would help us to live as a community that's incomparable with anything in this world.*

### **Prepare for Gospel Community:**

*How has God impacted you the most through today's passage(s)?*

*Who do you know whose life is so broken that it appears beyond recovery? Pray for them, asking the Lord to reveal His kindness and power to save anyone, and that He would change their life.*