

January 31 – February 1, 2009

“Death By Degree!”

Revelation 2:18:29 - Thyatira

Pastor Mark Burch

Ephesians 5:3 “...not even a hint of sexual immorality...”

Proverbs 5:18-19 “...rejoice in the wife of your youth...loving doe, a graceful deer – may her breasts satisfy you always...ever be captivated by her love.”

The gift of sexuality is one of the most powerful forces in our lives for both pleasure and pain. Like fire, sexuality, in its proper place, is both powerful and beneficial. But out of control, it can also become a destructive force. Satan is able to use sexual sin in a devastating “one-two” punch in our lives. First, we are tempted to move away from God’s ideal, into sin. After we sin, Satan then turns the mirror on us to condemn and ridicule us.

As your pastor, my hope and prayer for you is that you would step into the fullness of sexual healing and fulfillment. That your desire to walk with Jesus Christ, and to be used by Him, would not be compromised because of hidden sin in your life.

- Like a Frog in the Kettle....or a Slow Fade to Black...

- A Working Class City....this is just how we do business...

- Compromise within the Ranks...a girl named Jezebel...

- Blazing Eyes – Bronze Feet

- Don’t Let The Fires Burn You...

- Hope!

Accountability/Support is available:

MEN: The Ironworkers Union—meets at WPS Sundays at 6:00 am (Call Brad @ 764-0963)

The Honorable Men—meets at Springfield Funeral Home Sundays. at 6:00 am (Call Jim @765-3354)

WOMEN:

Women of Hope—meets at Hwy 33 every 2nd Monday at 7 pm. Call Nancy at 765-6622

Home Group Discussion Questions

This is an incredibly intimate and personal discussion...and you need to honor and respect one another...but my prayer is that you will be able to share openly, and with grace, the journey toward sexual wholeness that we are all on.

History (Making it Personal)

1. Why do you think our culture has become so incredibly sex-crazed? We know this is a powerful and pleasurable part of our lives, but what does it say about our culture that sex is brought into **everything**?
2. Share briefly about the home you were raised in....was sexuality a topic that was discussed constructively and openly...or was it taboo or silent? How did your home shape your understanding of sexuality? Our text deals specifically with the sexual “atmosphere” of the local church family...do you think that the evangelical church is missing out in not addressing this issue more directly today? Why or why not?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

4. Read Revelation 2:18-29
5. Talk about the image of Jesus from 1:14-15 – eyes blazing and feet of bronze. What do those images bring to mind?
6. Talk about the commendations...2:19. There was much to praise this church for...but they were tolerating evil in the name of “love.” Talk about the peace at any cost mentality. Through Titus 3:10 and I Corinthians 5:1-13 into the mix.
7. Scan through I Kings 16:29-33; 18:4; 19:1-3; & 2 Kings 9:22. When we speak of the “spirit of Jezebel” what is it that we are referring to? How have you witnessed this willingness to compromise in your own life or in the life of the church?
8. Talk about the mercy and grace of God. Revelation 2:21-22 talk about the time given for repentance. How have you experienced God’s grace and forgiveness in repentance, and how do we need to minister to those who TODAY are caught in sexual compromise?
9. How do we balance love and truth when it comes to this area of sexual purity? Ephesians 5:1-5 sets out an incredibly high standard for purity. What does the level of sexual sin within the church indicate about our spiritual maturity?
10. Finally, talk about the “eyes that see” and the implications for looking down the road in a person’s life to see the destructive path they are on. How can we reach out and speak with compassion toward those who are on a path that will surely destroy them? When you see a person headed in a destructive direction – do you have courage to speak?

Taking It Home (Application)

11. Spend some time in prayer for sexual wholeness in our church family. Pray for our singles and for married people! Pray that we would know the joy of God’s gift of sexuality in its proper context...and that healing from sin and pain could be poured out on those who have failed. Talk about the accountability structures and boundaries you’ve put in your own life to maintain your purity.