

Titus House Newsletter

Titus House Ministries, PO Box 2376, Tijeras, NM 87059

**JULY
2017**



Can You Escape From Sexual Addiction?

By: Tom in a Missouri Prison

The answer is overwhelmingly, yes! Both men and women can suffer from sexual addiction. It can have devastating effects on our lives as well as the lives of others around us, but it doesn't have to be this way.

With me, it eventually cost me my marriage to a wife I loved. I lost my children, my job and everything I owned. I'm in prison serving a ten year sentence and I'm now labeled as a pervert. My reputation is ruined all because of a series of bad choices I made regarding sex. I lost everything but my relationship with Christ.

For anyone sex can be extremely gratifying, but you have to sustain your sexual activities to sustain the gratification. Beyond having sex to have children, many have sex recreationally. Some use it as a stress reliever and for some it's very dangerous because it's used for expressing power and control. This can lead to rape and sexual violence. Used excessively, sex develops into sexual addiction. I think that's why Paul warned us to flee from sexual immorality in I Cor. 6:18. In a day and age where sex and sexual situations seem to be everywhere tugging on our desires, how can we overcome it? While here in prison I took a course called "Overcoming Sexual Addiction." It was based on the book "At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry." The discussion group provided a safe place to talk about sexual addic-

tion. One conversation centered around the process of sin in James 1:14, 15 and 11 Cor. 10:5.

1. First, a thought enters our mind. It could be a sexual thought from another person, something on TV, a movie, music or our own sexual imaginations. Our group leader asked us, "Is masturbation harmful? The Bible doesn't specifically mention it. No one else is involved in it. Where's the harm?" The harm comes from what you think about when you masturbate. The book talks about the "theater of our minds." In this theater we think of unrealistic sexual scenarios that are rarely able to be fulfilled in the real world. Attempts to meet those expectations can lead to frustration, especially when others won't participate in helping to fulfill our desires. Sometimes we take that out on our partners and look for others (cheating) to fulfill these fantasies.

2. Next, we have to decide what to do with the thought. As James said, we can let ourselves be drawn away by our own evil desire and become enticed by entertaining the sexual thought, or we can do as Paul said and bring the thought into captivity in obedience to Christ. That's not always easy to do! It's something we have to strive for moment by moment and day by day.

3. We have to take action against the sinful sexual thought. We have to decide right then and there to put the evil thought out of our

mind. Replace it with something good or convicting.

4. James says the consequence for sin is death. With sexual sin it can be death in different ways. There can be physical death from sexual disease or the death of your lifestyle. How many of us came to prison and lost everything as a consequence of our actions? It could be the death of relationships with others. How about spiritual death? Is our walk with God the same after choosing sin?

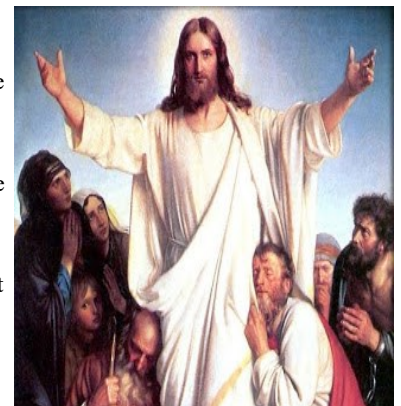
One great aspect of the process listed in the book of James is that it can be turned to good. When a thought comes into our mind we can choose to stop thinking about it. We can replace it with a good thought and develop a positive desire based on that thought. Then that desire causes us to take action, and if everything is done correctly we experience fruitful consequences.

For example, let's say you are bored at home alone. You think to yourself, "The computer is right there. Porn is only a click away." Then replace that thought. Maybe at that moment, you notice your elderly neighbor trying to mow their yard. Replace the thought of porn with the observation that he or she might have a difficult time mowing it. Think about how hard it is for them and now, maybe you've developed a desire to help. You take action and

offer to mow the lawn for them. Good actions have good consequences. You've strengthened your relationship with your neighbor. Maybe they'll ask themselves, "Is this the horrible sex offender? He's nothing like I thought." Others driving by probably saw you too. God will reward you for loving your neighbor in Christ. Plus, you avoided the sexual thought. Do you see how this works? Bad thoughts lead to bad consequences and good thoughts lead to good consequences.

Other ways that help us build a Christian way of thinking include belief in Jesus, working for the Lord, prayer, Bible study, fellowship with other believers, accountability partners, fear of punishment, loss of rewards and most importantly, love.

Remember, God loves you even if you are addicted to sex. He wants to fellowship with you. He's waiting with open arms for you to come back to Him just like the prodigal son in Luke 15:20. He is just waiting for you to come home.





Colorado Prisoner Fights Forest Fires

For the past several years “Tiger” Stephen Johns has been busy training rescue dogs and fighting forest fires in Colorado, praying for Titus House and supporting us with his tithes. Here is a recent account of one such fire: “There were 200-foot walls of fire all around us and it was getting real warm. There was no escape, we were trapped. I called out for help, the newest was five miles away, too far away. So I handed out the cell phones and told my crew of five to call their families, tell them you love them, tell them goodbye and ask them to pray for us. We were all crying on the cell phone. I started praying for God’s help. By the time I got the last cellphone back we were all holding each other, waiting to burn to death, telling each other how much we loved

each other. There was so much smoke and fire you couldn’t see the sky. Then all of a sudden all heaven broke loose, Yahweh sent the rain. It was pouring buckets, like it does in Florida or Hawaii, like being in a carwash. Everybody was dancing around in the rain, praising God. It put out the fire completely, hot spots and all. Then I had everyone call their families back so they didn’t have to worry any longer. We actually all went home that day! Forest fires are spooky, you never know when it’s going to get you.

When I had “Puppy Love Hall” (my rescue dog) I started taking him with me, because I was out for so many weeks they were going to take him from me. Then the first night he was barking

his head off, and he’s not a barker. There was a black bear approaching and Puppy Love Hall ran him off! So now I always take my puppy with me.”



Supreme Court Strikes Down Social Media Ban for Sex Offenders

BY ADAM SCHWARTZ JUNE 19, 2017

The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Packingham v. South Carolina*, unanimously struck down a state law that banned registered sex offenders (RSOs) from using all Internet social media, holding that the law violated the First Amendment.

EFF and our allies Public Knowledge and the Center for Democracy & Technology filed an amicus brief urging this result. The Court cited our brief for three propositions regarding the extraordinary consequences of banishing people from all Internet social media:

Seven in ten American adults use at least one Internet social networking service.

One of them, Facebook, has 1.79 billion active users.

All Governors and nearly all members of Congress use social media to communicate with their constituents.

The Court also cited our brief for the proposition that the broadly worded law might bar access not just to commonplace social media websites, but also to other websites like Amazon.com, Washingtonpost.com, and Webmd.com. Our brief was written by Professor David Post, as well as Jonathan Sherman, Perry M. Grossman, and Henry Bluestone Smith of Boies,

Schiller & Flexner LLP.

Both Justice Kennedy’s majority opinion and Justice Alito’s concurrence in the judgment assumed without deciding that the law was content neutral, and thus applied the intermediate scrutiny test used for content neutral laws. Both opinions therefore required the government to prove that the law was narrowly tailored, meaning the law



does not burden substantially more speech than necessary to achieve the government’s goal of protecting children. Both concluded that the law failed this test, because it banished RSOs from all Internet social media.

Several statements from the Court’s opinion (which Justice Alito’s opinion did not join) will be critical in deciding all manner of future cases applying the First Amendment to the Internet:

“Cyberspace . . . in general” and “social media in particular” are “the most important places (in a spatial sense) for the exchange of views.”

Internet social media “can provide perhaps the most powerful mechanism available to a private citizen to make his or her voice

heard.”

“Even convicted criminals—and in some instances especially convicted criminals—might receive legitimate benefits from these means for access to the world of ideas, in particular if they seek to reform and to pursue lawful and rewarding lives.”

In addition to opposing the banishment of RSOs from all Internet social media, EFF also has long opposed government efforts to strip RSOs of their right to anonymous speech on the Internet, and efforts to force RSOs to wear location-tracking shackles every moment for the rest of their lives.

EFF opposes laws like these that burden the digital liberties of RSOs for three reasons. First, digital liberty is a fundamental human right that all people should enjoy. Second, government often imposes new technological burdens on “the worst of the worst,” and then expands those burdens to other populations. Third, the government has designated nearly one million people as RSOs, including many non-dangerous people.

The Court’s decision in *Packingham* strengthens the First Amendment rights of all people to participate in the Internet.

Why Support Titus House?

By: Alice Benson Johnston

Titus House Ministries specializes in ministering to sex offenders, both in prison and after release. We now have contacts in 25 states, many in well known federal prisons. Many recognized prison ministries go out of their way to declare that they do not help sex offenders. We have a real problem with that from a Christian standpoint. Jesus helped the lepers of his society and cared especially about incarcerated criminals. Our contacts are usually from people knowing people. We receive handwritten notes asking for our help. They range from illiterate folks to college graduates. They tell us their story, sometimes in half a page of hard-to-read script to many pages of type-written eloquence. We answer their letters, send them some introductory

material and a first mentoring sheet. When that sheet is returned we send a more complex second one. We tell them that when we receive that one we



will accept a collect phone call. From some states the cost of a 20 minute call can be as high as \$4.00. We now mail out over 300 monthly letters in paper form at a cost of about \$1 each, plus an

email listing of another 250 people. We have four busy board members but the bulk of this ministry is carried on daily by Don and myself. Don has the major responsibility for the newsletter. He also talks with a large number of people on his cell phone. When a newly released person needs to register, fill out forms, find the location of services, Don jumps in his pickup and spend at least half a day touring Albuquerque with them. One day a week we minister in the evening to about 20 people at a halfway house. We may have them for a day or a year. Why am I writing this? An inmate from Colorado faithfully sends us \$5.00 a month. Many of you could match that or more. Will you please do what you can? Thank you!

For Those Dealing with Sex Additions

Here is some information for those who have sex additions that you can write and get some information

Sex Addicts Anonymous

Phone

USA / Canada:
1-800-477-8191
Postal mail

ISO of SAA
PO Box 70949
Houston, TX 77270 USA

Email

info@saa-recovery.org

Sexaholics Anonymous International

Central Office
PO Box 3565
Brentwood, TN 37024

E-mail: saico@sa.org
Phone: (615) 370-6062
Toll-free: (866) 424-8777

Sexaholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop lusting and become sexually sober. There are no dues or fees for SA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

Places to Write for Help and Information

*The Center for Constitutional Rights

666 Broadway
7th Floor
New York, NY 10012

*Critical resistance, National Office
1904 Franklin Street, Suite 504
Oakland, CA 94612

*Prison Fellowship
44180 Riverside Parkway, Lansdowne,
VA 20176

*Friends and Families of Incarcerated Person

PO Box 27708
Las Vegas, NV 89126
Prison Resources

*Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons

P.O. Box 93601
Las Vegas, NV 89193 *Wayne Bowers,
Executive Director
CURE-SORT (Sex Offenders Restored
Through Treatment)

P.O. Box 1022
Norman, OK 73070-10

*ETC- The Campaign to promote
equitable telephone charges
C/O MI-CURE

P.O. Box 2736
Kalamazoo, MI 49003

*Lewisburg Prison Project

P.O. Box 128
Lewisburg, PA 17837

*CURE-Life-Long

665 West Willis St, Suite B-1
Detroit, MI 48201
United States

*Fortune Society

Building people not prisons
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101



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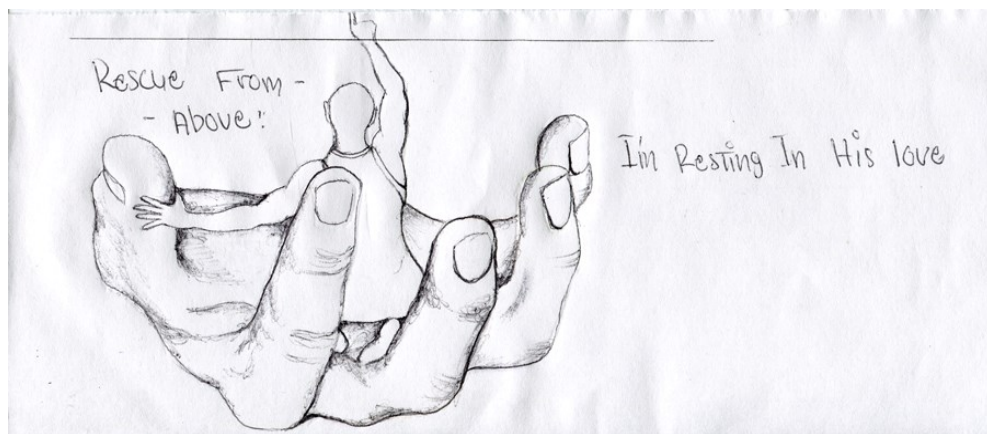
We're on the Web
titushouseministries.org

Hebrew 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Remember if you change your address you need to let us know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter



"It must be summer... The pastor is preaching re-runs."



Acts 16: 16-40

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. JOHN 3:16

Circle of Concern

This month in July we are meeting at our newly elected board member Jack's house for our monthly Circle of Concern. We will be meeting on a Saturday, July 8 at 3:00 pm for an outdoor potluck/barbecue (bring a side dish). The address is 315 Sandia Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Please bring a chair to sit on. Circle of Concern is aimed at breaking down

isolation and fear by providing a safe place for registrants and their loved ones to get together, build community, and learn ways to step out and take charge of their lives and overcome the stigma they face. We hope you will join us.

