

Titus House Newsletter

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

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HEART SURGERY CURES SEXUAL ADDICTION by Tom in a Missouri prison

Have you ever heard the phrase, "The heart wants what the heart wants?" We hear it a lot when someone is in love or when they desire or long for something. Jesus says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

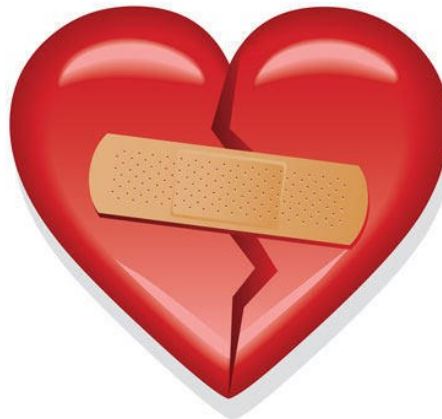
When a rich man came to Jesus in Mark, Chapter 10, he asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus looked at him and said, "Go sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. The man valued his earthly wealth in his heart more than his spiritual treasure in heaven. Many of us do the same thing with our sexual addiction.

Jesus told his disciples, "But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander." The Bible has many references to heart conditions.

In my previous article about overcoming sexual addiction, I wrote about controlling our thoughts because that's where sexual addiction begins. Our thoughts become desires, have consequences. (James 1:14, 15) Our beliefs, attitudes, opinions and our bias. decide what to do with it based on what's

Those who feel strongly against abortion from God. A person may hold a racial bias with someone of another race. A person well in business. Someone who is very friends. Our spiritual heart, like our physi-

There cannot be a change in us without a is changed? You have to have heart surgery. A Jew who is one inwardly, and heart, by the Spirit, not by the written that this change of heart was not an out-participated in male circumcision as a spiritual surgery of the heart by the Holy away of our old beliefs and the renewing the Word of God after accepting Christ as



desires become actions and actions heart is where we form and hold our When a thought enters our mind, we in our heart.

believe that life is a precious gift that affects his or her interaction with a determined attitude may do opinionated may not have any cal heart, literally runs our lives.

change in our heart first. So, how it gery. Romans 2:29 tells us, "...a circumcision is circumcision of the code." Paul was telling the Jews ward or physical surgery, (the Jews requirement of the law), it was a Spirit. It comes from the cutting of our mind by the Holy Spirit and our Lord and Savior.

Sexual addiction is affected the same way. When you become convicted in your heart by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, your beliefs, attitudes, opinions and bias begin to change. You start to see the world through the love of God. Your mind begins to perceive and judge the thoughts that come into it with God's heart. In turn you have Godly thoughts that lead to Godly desires and Godly actions. The more your heart is changed, the less you want to feed your sexual addiction.

An example of a change of heart can be found in Acts 2:36-38. Peter was addressing the crowd of Jews after the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost. He told them who Jesus is after they crucified Him.

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The passage continues to say that those that accepted his message were baptized and about three thousand were added to their number that day. That's the Holy Spirit – the Great Surgeon in action!

God loves you and wants you to have a heart like His. If sexual addiction is ruling your life, schedule your heart surgery with the Holy Spirit right away. In our physical life, if we put off a needed heart surgery, we die. The same can be said for our spiritual heart surgery; without it our soul will die.

If you would like more information or a free consultation about spiritual heart surgery, please call Jesus, toll free, or open your Bible today.





Is There Life after Prison? By Mark P.

There is a lot of anxiety involved in release from prison or some sort of a half-way house. If you are fortunate you will have friends or family to help ease the transition from inmate to free citizen. However, even if you don't have those advantages it is not as scary as you may imagine it to be. When I was released, I did not have a "support system" to fall back on. I was in a strange city, without family or friends to assist me in the transition. True, I did have a period of three months in a half-way house to get a feel for life on the outside, but there is still a big difference between that and being totally on your own. I am still on parole, so I am not totally free, but it sure beats being in prison and having your every moment controlled and monitored.

The first few months were anxious ones. What if I inadvertently violated some rule? How do I deal with neighbors? what if? what if? So many questions and nowhere to turn for answers. Just seeing a cop spiked my anxieties, even though I knew I hadn't done anything wrong.

I will admit that for the first couple of months I "hid" in my apartment. I went to work, church, attended college classes, and bought groceries when I had to, but not much else. I gradually began to realize I was still in prison, a prison of my own making, a prison created in my own mind. Like a wary turtle I began to stick my nose out of the protection of my shell. (but just a tiny bit!) I took little steps. Steps like going to restaurants that I knew were on the "approved" list from my time in the half-way house. Things like talking to the neighbors or walking around the block were major victories! I spent a lot of time in prayer, learning to trust God, and to trust myself.

I have now been out for just over a year. If asked, I would say the most important bit of advice I would give is to think before you do something. Take the time to stop, pause, listen to your inner voice, your instinct. If something doesn't seem right it probably isn't. Take the time to figure out why it doesn't seem right. Re-evaluate your plan before you com-

mit to it.

Another thing it took me some time to accept is that the parole/probation officer is not the enemy. He or she isn't your friend, but they are not the enemy either. They are just trying to do their job, and being human, they make mistakes too.

The last thing I would say is be mindful of who you hang out with. It is natural to want to be with your old friends and acquaintances but, if they are part of the reason for the decisions you made that resulted in prison, it may not be the wisest choice.

There is life after prison. We all make mistakes. Learn from them. Don't let your past define your future. Get up, dust yourself off and continue to move forward.

May the peace and grace of God be with you

CONGRATULATIONS TO BROTHER MARK ON HIS ORDINATION TO THE MINISTRY.

Isolation by Alice Benson Johnston

Spending time alone is a good thing, but social isolation which is the absence of social relationships is unhealthy. Emotional isolation can occur when a person lacks any close confidant or intimate partner. When people are emotionally isolated, they keep their feelings completely to themselves, are unable to receive emotional support from others. Isolation comes from one group feeling they are superior to others and usually living with those like themselves.-- White, black, Hispanic, lower class, transgender, millennial, divorced, upper class, illegal, drug addict, felon. The label sex offender is rather recent. Several news stories in the past 20 years have made it an especially popular label for those who sexually violated anyone under age 18. Few now realize that one fourth of "sex offenders" are now actually children or youth. You may carry this label. What are you doing with it? Hiding out with Mom, moving to a ranch, isolating yourself in one way or another? Isolation could lead you back into reoffending.

Isolation is what we do to avoid conflict and to avoid being labeled. How do we

handle this? If we are believing Christians we sometimes attend large, impersonal churches. We avoid any situation where sex offenders might be pinpointed. If we can't get our label removed



legally we pretend it doesn't exist. Once we get a job we do our best to choose a new set of friends. We have successfully "moved on." The problem is, we can't successfully move on. The registry is still there. We may have to register every three months. People see us there. We are on a public listing. We are reminded once again that we are part of a recognized group.

Titus House urges you to accept the fact that you did certain things you greatly regret. We urge you if at all possible to come to our monthly Circle of Concern to break your chain of isolation. These may become your best friends who will push you toward success in work, relationships and life in general. These people will give you helpful suggestions; perhaps find you jobs, housing, a car and many other things. They will pray for your success and you will value them as lifelong friends.

We meet once a month at Foothills Church, a church that appears to really love us, that doesn't charge us to use a great space complete with kitchen facilities. I urge you to put this on your calendar.

Remember, if you are a believing Christian, God has a distinct plan for your life not to live in isolation but to be involved in fellowship with one another. Make this your immediate plan.



Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision

By Larry Neely

Q: I am serving time in Tennessee and will be eligible for parole in July 2018. It is very difficult for sex offenders to find housing here in Tennessee so I would like to parole to Florida. I spoke with my caseworker and was informed that there is a charge of \$150.00 for Interstate Compact transfer. This seems unfair and I am wondering if it is legal. Why do I have to pay \$150.00 for the privilege of leaving prison? Also, what all is involved in switching states while on parole.

A: This is a fantastic question because this issue impacts so many of our constituents. I will answer your second question first. There is a formal process for transferring state-imposed probation or parole from the sentencing state to a different state by following the rules of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS). The full compact and ICAOS rules as well as "Advisory Opinions" issued by the Interstate Compact Commission are available at <http://www.interstatecompact.org/>. We must stress that applications seeking interstate transfer are submitted by supervising authorities, not the offender, so please do not contact the ICAOS offices in Kentucky.

Those seeking to transfer supervision should keep in mind that no state's sex offenders for fear of potentially reoffend. Therefore, interstate transfers are often denied by the receiving state for relatively minor reasons. This means you or a loved one should do as much homework as possible prior to applying. You should attempt to find out if the requirements of the receiving state pose dwelling meets the requirements, for example, if the house is too close to a school, park, or place where children gather, that could mean you cannot live there and your application will be denied. And don't simply research the laws because supervising authorities can and often do impose restrictions greater than the laws applied to those who are simply required to register and are not under formal supervision.



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Although you did not ask, it is important to consider your "conditions of supervision" imposed by the court and the parole/probation authorities as well as your registration obligation. Your registration obligation will be determined by the state you live in, not the state of your conviction. This means a person convicted in Vermont who decides to transfer supervision to Florida will be required to register for life rather than the 10 years required if they had stayed in Vermont. Some mistakenly believe that their conditions of supervision may be less if they transfer out of state. That is not true. ICAOS requires that the receiving state honor the rules imposed by the sending state, whether or not they would have imposed those same conditions. In addition, receiving states are permitted to add their own "special conditions" if the conditions are consistent with what they impose on offenders convicted there. This means you may end up with tougher supervision in the new state than what you would have had if you had not moved. Most states will require registration with the police or sheriff within three days of arrival, but some states require registration within 24 hours. So be sure to find out everything you can about sex offender registration laws and other restrictions wherever you plan to go. And we do realize this is easier said than done because supervising authorities are not sitting by the phone anxiously awaiting your questions.

Now for your second question; although all states do not impose a fee to apply for interstate transfer, the \$150.00 fee is assessed by the state of Tennessee and is permitted by ICAOS rules. States charge varying fees to cover the amount of time and resources it takes to compile the paperwork required by the receiving state. The fee schedule is available on the ICAOS website. It is important to remember that it is a privilege to be supervised in another state and that Tennessee is not required to give you permission to apply to be supervised in Florida. In terms of your inability to pay the \$150.00 fee, we advise you to consult with your caseworker in Tennessee to see if they have any provision for indigent applicants. If there is no provision and you cannot raise the funds, you will probably have no choice other than looking for an address in Tennessee.

Andr s M. from Albuquerque, NM

I was 19 years old when I had gotten arrested for having sex with a minor. I am not proud of what I have done, but I am contrite and honest about my crime. 1 John 1:9 in the Bible states "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." By definition, confession - a formal statement admitting that one is guilty of a crime; an admission or acknowledgment that one has done something that one is ashamed or embarrassed about.

For those of us looking to move on from our crimes and find peace that surpasses all understanding, salvation as described in John 3:16, to understand God's love in its fullest, we must confess our sins to Him. I do believe that God will and has forgiven us of our sins, and that sex offenders are not exempt from that forgiveness. We may be denied entry to numerous groups, social clubs, causes, or even prison programs because we are "cheaters", "perverts", "disgusting", "monsters"; God calls us His "beloved", "made in His Image", "redeemable", "beautiful". Ultimately we are not excluded from the Love of Our Creator so long as we are truly honest. No matter how terrible the crime, how shameful the sin, the first step to walking the real line, God's line, is being truly honest about the harm we have caused by our crime. We make no excuses or rationalizations for what we have done. Healing can begin today whether we are behind bars awaiting trial, sentenced, released and on parole, or even years after all of our obligations except registration are completed. No matter what the world says and will say about us - when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, God sees us as forgiven, washed anew, so long as we are willing to leave our denial at the Cross, for Jesus knew we would commit the crimes that we have, yet He chose to still love us and die for our sins; all of our sins - no exceptions.



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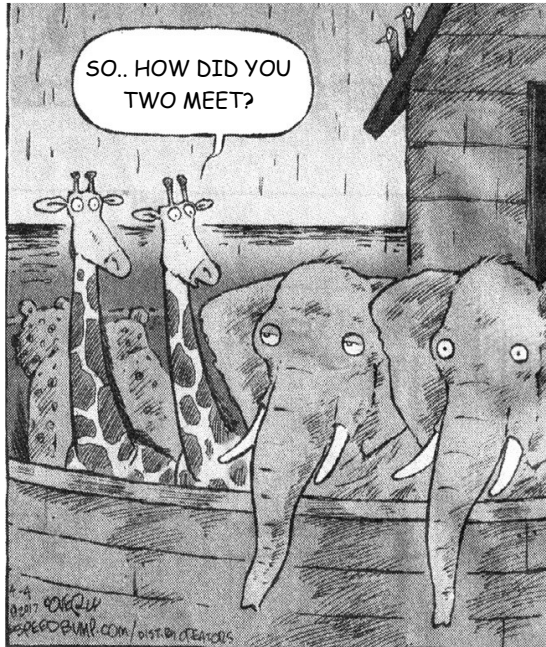
We're on the Web
titushouseministries.org

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



"We built a wall, and made Satan pay for it."



"He that cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he must pass himself, for every man has need to be forgiven."

—Thomas Fuller (1734)

A farmer's prayer

A pastor was attending a men's breakfast. He asked one of the old-time farmers to say the prayer that morning.

The farmer began, "Lord, I hate buttermilk." The pastor opened one eye, and wondered where this was going.

The farmer continued, "And, Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was worried.

The farmer prayed on, "And You know, Lord, I don't care too much for raw flour either."

The pastor was just about to put a stop to the farmer's odd prayer when the farmer prayed, "But, Lord, when you mixiz'em all together and bakes 'em up, I love me those fresh biscuits. So, Lord, when we don't understand what's happenin' 'round us; when life gets hard; when things come up we don't like; whenever we just don't understand what You're tellin' us, then teach us to just relax and wait 'til You're done fixin' what You're fixin', and probably it will be something even better'n fresh-baked biscuits!"

"Now, Lord, bless us, and all this food for which we thank You, an' kindly accept my special thanks for the aroma of fresh biscuits!"

Circle of Concern

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. The circle of Concern is a group of concerned registered offenders, family and friends that meet together on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on August 13, 2017 at 6 pm—8 pm. We will be having a potluck. We



meet at Foothills Fellowship Church, corner of Tramway and Candelaria on the far east side of Albuquerque. We encourage and try to help each other. It is a safe place to share our strengths and struggles. We hope you will join us.