

Message Notes

Lust: Dealing With the Dragon Within

Scripture Passages

Introduction – A poem

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

Sermon Series
GOSPEL SEXUALITY

This week:

Lust: Dealing With the Dragon Within

The Reality of the Dragon

Steven Pressfield - Do The Work

The Progression of Sin

James 1:13-15, Romans 1:21-23

The nature of temptation

What does it mean "to lust"?

At the Battlefield

Mark 7:20-23, Romans 8:5-6

Equipped for the Journey: Walking the Gospel Pathway again & again

#1 – Creation

- Too much
- Too little
- Just right

#2 – Fall

- Too much
- Too little
- Just right

#3 – Redemption

- Too much
- Too little
- Just right

#4 – Glory

- Too much
- Too little
- Just right

Walking the Gospel Pathway in Community

Gospel Application

Will you walk the gospel pathway again and again?

A day in the future

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God...

James 1:13-15

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Romans 1:21-23

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Mark 7:20-23

20 And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Romans 8:5-6

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

The Dragon

I found a dragon on my step
Small and agile
Please stay awhile

Every day we'd take a walk
Master and pet
Why the cold sweat?

The Dragon

And then I saw he held the leash
Tall and vile
I've got no file.

I found a dragon on my step
False hearted foe
Who will never let go.

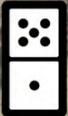
~ Bill Perkins

The Dragon

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**GOSPEL
SEXUALITY**



DO THE WORK!

STEVEN PRESSFIELD



The Reality

“Welcome to Hell. Now you’re in the \$#!%*.”

The Reality

“Welcome to Hell. Now you’re in the \$#!%*.

Principle #1: There is an enemy.

We have been conditioned to imagine that the darkness we see in the world and feel in our own hearts is only an illusion, which can be dispelled by the proper care, the proper love, the proper education, and the proper funding.

It can't.

The Reality

“Principle #2: The enemy is implacable.

The enemy is intelligent, protean, implacable, inextinguishable, and utterly ruthless and destructive. Its aim is not to obstruct or to hamper or to impede. Its aim is to kill.

The Reality

“Principle #3: The enemy is inside you.

You can board a spaceship to Pluto and settle, all by yourself, into a perfect artist's cottage ten zillion miles from Earth. [It] will still be with you. The enemy is inside you.

The Reality

“Principle #5: The “Real You” Must Duel the
“Resistance You”

On the field of the Self stand a knight and a dragon.
You are the knight. Resistance is the dragon.

There is no way to be nice to the dragon, or to reason with it or negotiate with it or beam a white light around it and make it your friend. The only intercourse possible between the knight and the dragon is battle. The contest is life-and-death, mano a mano.”

~Steven Pressfield, “Do The Work”

The Progression of Sin

James 1:13-15

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The Progression of Sin

Attention

Appreciation

The Progression of Sin

Attention

Appreciation

Natural

Healthy

Holy

The Progression of Sin

Romans 1:21-23

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

The Progression of Sin

Attention

Infatuation

Appreciation

Consumption

Natural

Healthy

Holy

The Progression of Sin

Attention

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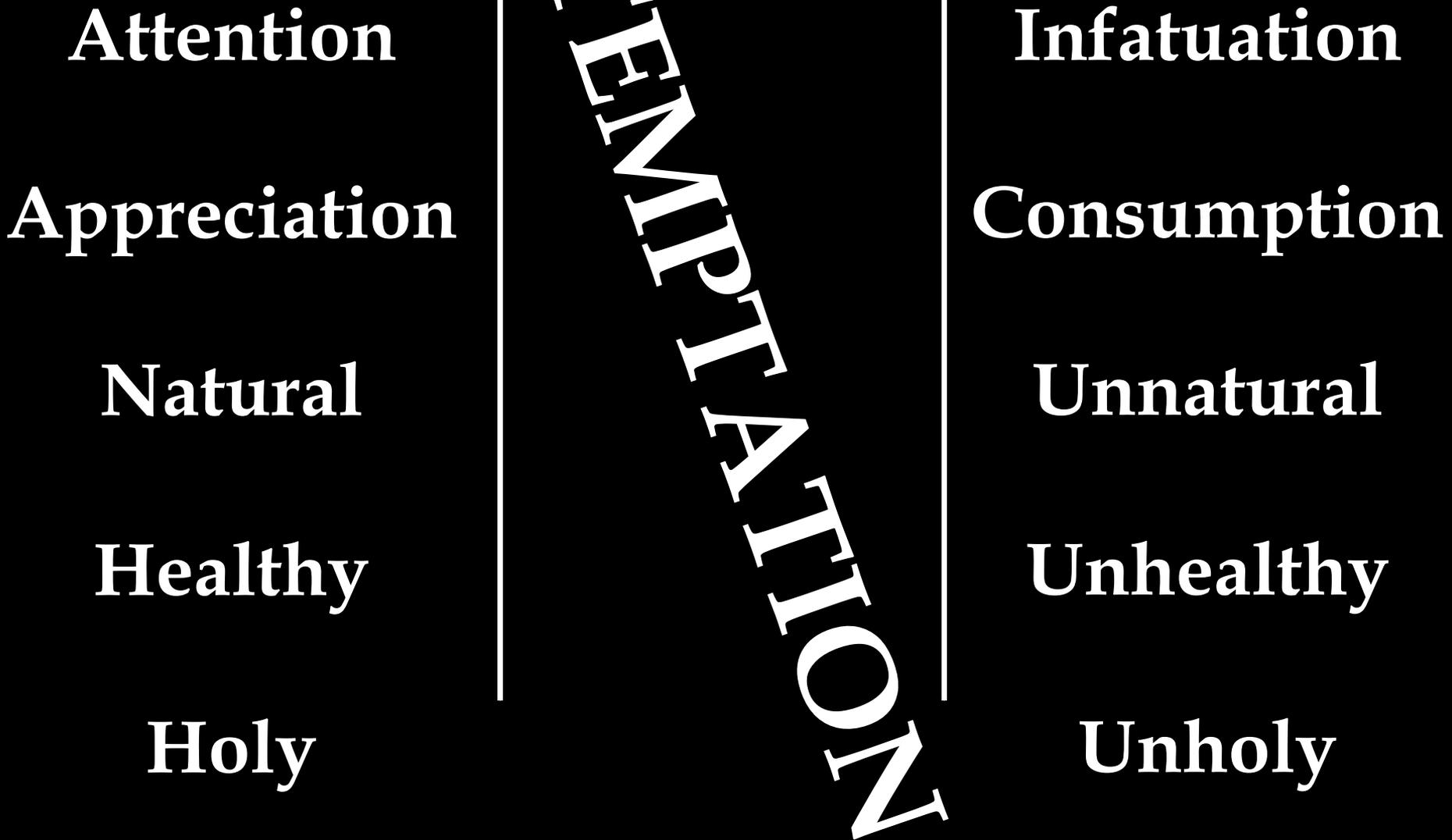
Consumption

Unnatural

Unhealthy

Unholy

The Nature of Temptation



What does it mean “to lust”?

To lust is to be deceived into indulging forbidden thoughts and desires, which may lead to misconduct

At the Battlefield

Mark 7:20-23

20 And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."



At the Battlefield

Romans 8:5-6

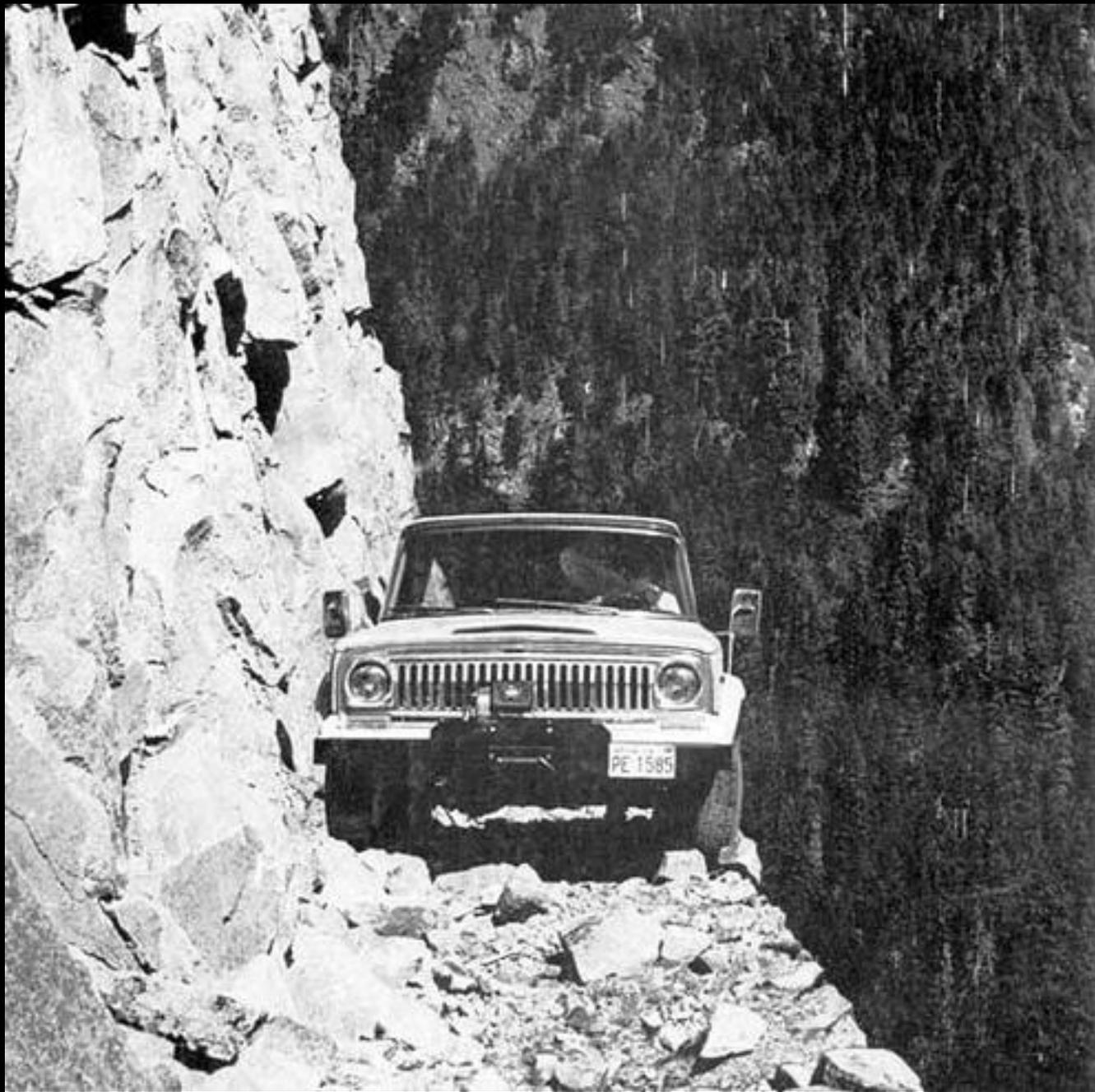
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The Gospel Pathway











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The Story

Creation

Fall

Redemption

Restoration

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GOSPEL STORY

Too much

Just right

Too little

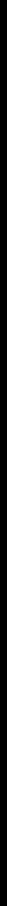
The Gospel Pathway

CREATION

Too much

Just right

Too little



The Gospel Pathway

CREATION

Too much

Just right

Too little

sex as god

What's the point of sex anyway?

God created sex
to be received as a gift
and experienced at his direction
for ever-increasing intimacy and benefit.

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CREATION

Too much

sex as god

gods &
goddesses

Just right

Too little

The Gospel Pathway

CREATION

Too much

sex as god

gods &
goddesses

Just right

Too little

highest animal
form

The Gospel Pathway

CREATION

Too much

sex as god

gods &
goddesses

Just right

image
bearer

Too little

highest animal
form

The Gospel Pathway

CREATION

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of
God he created him; male and female he created
them.

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FALL

Too much

Just right

Too little

sin is too
great

The Gospel Pathway

FALL

Too much

sin is too
great

Just right

Too little

sin is no
big deal

The Gospel Pathway

FALL

Too much

sin is too
great

Just right

sin is real
and has
consequences

Too little

sin is no
big deal

The Gospel Pathway

FALL

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

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REDEMPTION

Too much

Just right

Too little

Prosperity
theology

The Gospel Pathway

REDEMPTION

Too much

Just right

Too little

Prosperity
theology

Self-
improvement

The Gospel Pathway

REDEMPTION

Too much

Prosperity
theology

Just right

Too little

Self-
improvement

gospel
imitations

The Gospel Pathway

REDEMPTION

Too much

Prosperity
theology

Just right

Cross-filled
Life

Too little

Self-
improvement

gospel
imitations

The Gospel Pathway

REDEMPTION

Mark 5:21-24

21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” 24 So Jesus went with him.

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REDEMPTION

Mark 5:35-36

35 While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

36 Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

The Gospel Pathway

REDEMPTION

Mark 5:37-40

37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. **38** When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. **39** He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” **40** But they laughed at him.

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REDEMPTION

Mark 5:40-43

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. **41** He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). **42** Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. **43** He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

The Gospel Pathway

GLORY

Too much

Just right

Too little

Now. Here.

The Gospel Pathway

GLORY

Too much

Just right

Too little

Now. Here.

Not ever.

The Gospel Pathway

GLORY

Too much

Just right

Too little

Now. Here.

Future and
forever
glory

Not ever.

The Gospel Pathway

GLORY

Romans 8:18-25

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

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GLORY

Romans 8:18-25

22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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Gospel in Community

Gospel Application

