Leaving The Pit

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INTRODUCTION

- He felt like he was in a miry pit with slippery walls, and there was no way out without sliding back down. There was no way out except with God's help.
- Members of the Lord's church in Indiana who have formed a group called Leaving the Pit to help people that are struggling with issues like the one I'm going to talk about this morning.
- The stance the elders at Decker Prairie are going to take is we're gonna use the restoration approach to helping people deal with this problem.

1 Pornography Is a Lie

Proverbs 9:17; Proverbs 14:12

- Pornography, a perversion that attacks everything that God cherishes most.
- Job said he made a covenant with his eyes not to think upon a woman, not to think upon a maiden. And that's where it starts, is in the mind.
- It's a lie because it says that the best sex is outside of marriage, and that is absolutely not the case. That's not how God designed it.
- Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. Those are not true statements, those are lies. And pornography is a lie.

2 This Is a Pandemic

- This is a pandemic, and I think this statistic alone will show you how widespread this is.
- Very large numbers of people that consider themselves Christians that are participating in this type of activity.
- You can't just tell people, well, could just quit doing that. You know, it's not that easy, it's not that simple. It's an addiction like any other addiction.

3 Where Children Learn the Facts of Life

- It really starts with where children learn the facts of life. Where did you learn the facts of life? Did you learn them from God?
- And it's really the parents' job to teach your children.
- If they don't learn it from you, they're going to learn it from the world. And they're going to get a distorted, perverted view of what God intended for the sexual relationship.

4 Your Body Is the Temple of God

1 Corinthians 6:19–20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; James 1:14–15

- Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own. You were bought at a price, therefore glorify God in your body.
- When God cleanses our souls, he lays claim to our body as well. We are his 100%, soul and body and spirit.
- This is a war between the body and the spirit and we need to let the spirit win and let the flesh lose.
- For this is the will of God, your sanctification. We have to be holy, we have to be set apart, we have to be sanctified, that we abstain from sexual immorality.
- It's not the temptation that is the sin, it's the giving in to the temptation. We can't allow that to happen.
- Maybe you need to make a covenant with your eyes, like Job did. Start there.

5 The Spiritual Impact, Betrayal and Healing

1 Corinthians 6:18

- That's how we need to treat this. If we're tempted by this, we need to run as fast as we can away from it.
- It is possible to recover from that, it is possible for marriages to recover from that.
- It's very hard to establish trust once it's been broken, but it can be done.

6 Is Our Congregation a Safe Place?

Romans 3:23

- What they need to see is that this is a used car repair shop. We're all under various states of repair.
- Is our congregation a safe place where people can admit to the beginning stages of this, and then as they're going through this, a place that they can find support.
- We need to look at the church as a hospital full of sick souls.
- If they can't do it at the church, where can they do it?

THE CHALLENGE

If we all lived by this verse, really presented our bodies a living sacrifice. We're holy and set apart, and we're not conformed to this world but continually transformed our mind through the word of God.

MY NOTES