

Darkness into Light -

Ice breakers

- How aware are you of the sexualisation of the world around us?
- How does that make you feel?
- Do you consider any inanimate object to be sexy?

Read Ephesians 5: 7-14

Paul addressing the issue of the cultural and media voices

Tom Wright - "There are a lot of empty words out there - words, that is, which sound big and important, which echo and resonate in our culture, but which have nothing inside them, no life, no truth. ... Casual sex is a parody of the real thing - like drinking from a muddy stream instead of fresh, clear water, or like listening to a symphony on a damaged CD or over compressed MP3 when a world-class orchestra is playing in the theatre around the corner.

Don't pay attention – Paul says.... We are called to live differently!
And yet, the lust of the flesh, the past, the culture ... all there to tempt us and test us every moment of every day

Read Hebrews 10:14-16

For you were once Darkness. The work of the Cross is a great thing for us (Col 1:13) and we have a responsibility too. It's comes out of relationship with God

Read Romans 8:13

Reinforces the concept of us needing to take responsibility for our own actions.... And our sins through the work of the Holy Spirit
Problem! - Jesus and/Jesus or? Paul keeps telling we can't hang on to our old lives, yet we try to keep bits of it and add Jesus to it

Read 1 Peter 1:16, 2 Cor 6:17 and 1 Peter 2:9

Paul is essentially saying... this is all or nothing This is Jesus or.... Our old way of life and the stuff we drag from it. Jesus Or Going with the way of the world

Read Romans 12:2

Notice again, the onus is on us. When WE do this, WE find out the will of God for OUR lives!

Read Genesis 2:25 and 3:6-10, Romans 7:23

Too many times we want to hide our sin – hide ourselves. God seeks us out, and also gives us a way out! It is a constant battle. Sin is ever present in our members

So here is our way out
Read James 5:16

EXPOSE THEM! When we confess our sins they lose power over us! Secret Sins - most of them are sexual. It is shameful to speak of them, shameful to talk about what our unsaved friends get up to, these sins are usually disgusting so we don't talk about them – like porn viewing or masturbation, drugs, alcohol. This is what gives them power over us. Exposure to light makes them light

We need to learn the power of confession. Not name it, claim it, frame it confession, but Getting ourselves clean confession! Accountability confession! Exposure to light makes them light

We may need to do this more than once. Sometimes it serves to remind us of our weakness. One day it will be a testimony

Take Home Message

We have the power to be free from sin. The Holy spirit leads us and empowers us. Confession breaks its power

Read Romans 8:26, 2 Corinthians 12:9, 2 Corinthians 12:10, Hebrews 4:15, Galatians 5:1

JESUS LOVES US AND CAME TO SET US FREE