

HELPING A SEXUAL OFFENDER

2 Tim. 3:2-4

THE GOAL: To avoid relational pain

THE ISSUE: Compulsive sexual behavior isn't just an issue of sex or even of external behavior. It's a by-product of loneliness, pain, the self-centered demand to be loved and accepted regardless of the consequences. The real issue isn't how deeply you were wounded but what you've done to protect yourself from further wounds by turning to false intimacy.

The real question is, "Are you living your life by demanding that you fulfill your desires and avoid all pain?" There is an obsession with self. In demanding the bliss of someone's real or imagined warmth, we become consumed with ourselves, which destroys the very ecstasy we seek. There is no way out. We are locked in reality, always wanting and therefore always destroying what we want. The process is insane. Until we become consumed with the love that desires to give for the sake of another's good, all joy is an illusion. When we justify and rationalize compulsive sexual behavior, we temporarily escape the isolation and inadequacies of a fallen world. Until we face the reality of our situation, godliness seems extremely impractical, and the foolishness of false intimacy seems more than reasonable. Without repentance from a trembling heart, self-denial is absurd.

THE PROBLEM: They demand to control their need.

CAUSES FOR SEXUAL PROBLEMS:

Fear of intimacy
Feelings of abandonment
Lack of appreciation
Loneliness (relational disappointments)

THE PRICE: A loss of vital relationship with God.

CHANGE: The person truly changes when his or her relationship with God changes.

HOW TO HELP THEM: Identify their real, though often hidden, goals. Realize their behaviors are indeed the result of unconscious choices. They must learn they can make different choices to achieve their goals. They can choose to trust God to help them respond honorably to pain in their hearts and their desires for personal satisfaction, regardless of the

confusion and disappointment life brings. When people seek a "taste of Heaven" by their own means, they create a living hell of uncontrolled desires. They look at what's wrong with them and conclude that it's connected to what others have done to them. They become powerless over their behavior not because it's a disease but because God has responded to the arrogance of the human heart by turning people over to the control of their evil desires. (Rom. 1)

Material adapted from Dr. Harry W. Schaumburg