

DATING – 3, 3 pgs

the law of Accountability

The more truth you understand, the greater your responsibility for living according to it and your accountability for failure to do so, **Jas.1:22; Rom.2:17-23**

FIRST Law of COUNSELING

*⁴How can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye, **Mt.7:***

THE LAW OF INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES

*⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life, **Gal.6:***

aka the law of causality

There is a cause and effect interaction and relationship not only between various aspects of the material world in the mathematical or mechanistic sense of physics and chemistry, but also between the seen and unseen portions. The Bible recognizes the ordinary causes and effects that are intrinsic in the make-up of our world, and reveals interactions of causes and effects that are spiritual, outside nature.

Because He is sovereign, God blesses and curses. He can alter the laws and intervene as He will [as he did in Jonah by means of the storm at sea, the sea creature raised up to rescue him from drowning, the vine for shade, and the worm that destroyed it].

The law of diminishing returns

Anything enjoyable that is special and rare that we turn into a common practice results in increasingly lower levels of enjoyment – like that rare trip to the amusement park or the seashore, apple pie, fine wine [fill in the blank with that special thing you look forward to once in a while]. What happens if you begin doing or having it every day? At first it seems great, but after 5 times or so it begins to lose its appeal. It's not as good or as much fun. **The same thing happens when people engage in romantic activities on a regular basis.** At first it's thrilling, but eventually we enter into a downward spiral where it takes additional involvement to achieve the same level of excitement. There is a natural tendency to escalate romantic activities to keep the interest level high. Eventually you reach the point where there is nowhere else to go other than full lustful sexual assault. **The relationship must stall as attraction wanes.** This is why relationships based solely upon physical/emotional intimacy are short-lived. It is the spiritual component of dedication and service to God that provides a sufficient underpinning for healthy human relationships. Once these noble components are eroded, only sexual craving remains. **Premature indulgence** [outside the circle of marriage] in that will utterly destroy everything potentially beautiful and good in the relationship.

What specific questions do you feel free to ask in front of this group? Now's the time!

Write down any questions that you do not feel free to ask in public. Don't put your name on the card.

1 Pt.4:1-5

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh [by resisting sin] has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer [with an appetite] for human passions [lusts] but for the will of God. ³For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions [lusts], drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴With respect to this [the Gentiles] are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Sensuality is the number one problem with dating. It refers to an eagerness to excite lustful pleasure, to awakening and stirring up normal physical desires in ourselves that result in a continual sensual focus that motivates us to defraud others. While seeking to gratify our own lust, we turn another on by making out with him or her. Regardless of how far foreplay goes, it is absolutely one of the worst things we can do to ourselves or to anyone else because **it ignites passions**. Once sensual desires are stirred up, they almost never return to normal levels. Once you have experienced those heightened sensual feelings of desire and love, you cannot forget them and you will find yourself longing for them again and again. **Sexual stimulation will become a craving, an addiction.** You not only infect and defile yourself with this very tenacious corrupting influence, you spread it to others by callously disregarding the clear warnings of Scripture. **How dare we do this to one another!** This is the context of the world that surrounds us where our friends and fellow Christians live. All of the **norms** (social, ethical, behavioral) have been shoved back. But it is not to be the norm for God's people. We are held to a higher standard, a godly one.

What happened to your new identity in Christ?

The way you describe yourself on your Facebook pages says volumes about how deeply you have been submerged into that other culture and been **consumed by self-adulation**. You seem completely unaware of it. The persona you present on social media is unrecognizable to those of us who have associated with you in a Christian setting. Your Facebook presentation has been carefully expunged of Christian content. It is completely secular in nature and by omission denies everything Christian you supposedly once held dear. In order to join our church, one must express faith in Jesus as Lord and confess that he is a disciple of Jesus whose authority is absolute in heaven and on earth. He must present himself as a member of the new creation in Christ (**2 Cor.5:17**). None of this is even alluded to in **your Facebook revelation and declaration to the world**. THIS is your announcement to the whole world, Look! Look at me. I'm so sexy ... so glamorous. Really! Instead, you look suspiciously like that Old unconverted person the Scriptures speak of (**Eph.4:17-24; Col.3:1-17**). **Shame on you**. I am so disappointed in you. Do you not recognize what you have done? WHO ARE YOU REALLY?

Before his crucifixion, Jesus said to the crowd that was following him ³⁴... *If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.* ³⁵*For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel's will save it.* ³⁶*For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?* ³⁷*For what can a man give in return for his soul?* This is followed by what is perhaps the strongest language Jesus ever spoke to his disciples concerning their unambiguous association and identification with him. ³⁸*For whoever is*

ashamed of [disassociates or distances himself from] me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels, **Mk.8:** Are you embarrassed to be known as a Christian? Is that what your Facebook pages convey?

Defrauding is arousing expectations or sexual desires in another that cannot be righteously satisfied. Intimate physical/emotional involvement will destroy spiritual potential and result in defrauding every time. **Face-to-face indulgence in physical intimacy is pure sexual excitement.** Casual or nominal faith cannot stand up to it. None of the limits you placed upon these activities before God will hold because you have already shifted from your mission to **self-indulgence**. Once you succumb to the strong desires of your flesh, you are no longer a light shining in the darkness of this poor world.

1 Thes.4:1-8

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more ... ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality [fornication]; 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; ⁶ that no one transgress to defraud his brother in this matter, **because the Lord is an avenger in all these things**, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Lust, often translated *passion*, is a common compound word in the Greek - the normal word for want or desire with an intensive prefix [epi] so it refers to **strong desire that seeks personal gratification**. It is spoken of as a corrupting influence in the world associated with some of the worst things imaginable like uncleanness, fornication (often translated sexual immorality), adultery, and greediness. Once sensual pleasures are indulged in and experienced, they will be sought after repeatedly. **Each recurrence impresses a pattern of anticipation (longing) for more.** The pattern becomes a habit (habitual sin - walking according to the desires of the flesh) and strengthens the chains of lust by which we are enslaved to sin. Sexual desire whittles down our inhibitions and destroys our will to resist temptation.

2 Pt.1:3-7

³ seeing that **Jesus Christ's** divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue; ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and exceedingly great promises; that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust. ⁵ Yes, and for this very cause adding on your part **all diligence**, in your faith supply moral excellence [virtue, often translated excellence, moral excellence, or goodness]; and in moral excellence, knowledge; ⁶ and in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control patience; and in patience godliness; ⁷ and in godliness brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love.