

Lesson 10 – Treatment 4

The Road To Deviancy

Read these Scripture verses below and then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper. If you believe this lesson would be helpful to others you know, feel free to share it with them.

Ephesians 4:17-24 “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. *Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.* That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, *created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

God created us in His own image in true righteousness and holiness. There are a number of examples in Scripture about what this looks like. When we live our lives the way we were designed, we find fulfillment. When we live outside of our design, we are not fulfilled. Our thinking becomes futile, our understanding is darkened, and our hearts are hardened. In the course of this futility, darkening, and hardening we become desensitized which leads to ever increasing pursuit of sensuality leading to impurity and greed.

When this concept is applied to sex, it looks like this: God designed us to be fulfilled sexually within a long-term committed relationship with a member of the opposite sex (we call this marriage) with the goal of pleasing our spouse (1 Corinthians 7:3-4) while experiencing a level of vulnerability (nakedness). Those who stray from our design by entertaining pornography may at first find it exciting yet because this cheap substitute for God’s design leaves them unfulfilled, they must “push the envelope” or escalate to more deviant forms of pornography such as hard core porn, bestiality, “barely legal”, child porn, and “snuff” films.

We may think this only takes place in the arena of sexual expression but let’s look at other areas where we can become desensitized to fulfillment due to operating outside of God’s design. In 2 Thessalonians 3:10 we are instructed that those who are unwilling to work should not eat. We were designed by our creator to work for our sustenance. Those who choose to live off of the charity of others or off the government dole will find themselves travelling down this same road to deviancy. There is a clear correlation between areas of assistance (government and private) and drug use, alcohol abuse, and crime. Long term dependence on others destroys the fabric from which we are made leaving us with a longing for something we can’t identify and searching for satisfaction in things that destroy us.

Deviancy never satisfies.

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1. List at least 3 other areas in which a person can travel down the road to deviancy. Reference Scripture to reveal how God designed us. Your answers should look like the examples above.
2. From the 5 areas listed above (your 3 plus the 2 supplied in this study) share at least 2 examples of your experience down the road to deviancy. Be specific.
 - a. Share, if applicable, how you returned to the road of God's design and what thinking errors or ungodly beliefs did you have to replace to get there.
 - b. If you are still stuck on the road to deviancy, what thinking errors or ungodly beliefs are you using to justify this cheap substitute for God's truth?