

# ***Sin That Entangles***

## **Navigating Relationships that are threatened by Sin**

What happens when a family member or a friend makes unwise choices that develop a pattern, or a lifestyle of destructive sin? How does the Gospel call us to love such people in our lives, clinging to Christ when darkness feels like it has made its home with someone you love? In this workshop, our goal is to equip and encourage you to help women to walk alongside and love family members and friends well even as sin threatens to entangle.

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Scripture on Sin (\*A small sampling from the Bible, All Scripture is ESV)

Genesis 3	
1 Samuel 15	
Romans 5:12-21	
Romans 6:1-14	
Isaiah 59:1-2	Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear you.
Romans 3:23	For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
Romans 6:23	For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
Romans 5:12-13	Therefore, just as in came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned – for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.
Romans 12:9	Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.
1 Thes 5:22	Abstain from every form of evil
Hebrews 3:13	But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
Romans 14:23	But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.
Romans 3:9-11	What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God."
Galatians 3:10	For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."
Galatians 3:22	But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.
Romans 7:17	So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

1 John 3:4	Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.
James 4:17	So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.
James 1:13-15	Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
1 John 1:8,10	If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
1 John 1:9	If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:10	If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
John 10:10	The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
2 Corinthians 11:3, 14	But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (14) And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
Romans 6:12-16	Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.
Romans 6:21-23	But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 7:14-23	For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.
Deuteronomy 5:8-10	You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
Ephesians 4:25 - 28	Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members on of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
Colossians 3:25	For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

Romans 7:7, 12	<p>What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." (12)</p> <p>So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.</p>
Ephesians 2:1-3	<p>And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.</p>
1 John 2:15- 17	<p>Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.</p>
Hebrews 4:12-17	<p>For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who is ever respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.</p>

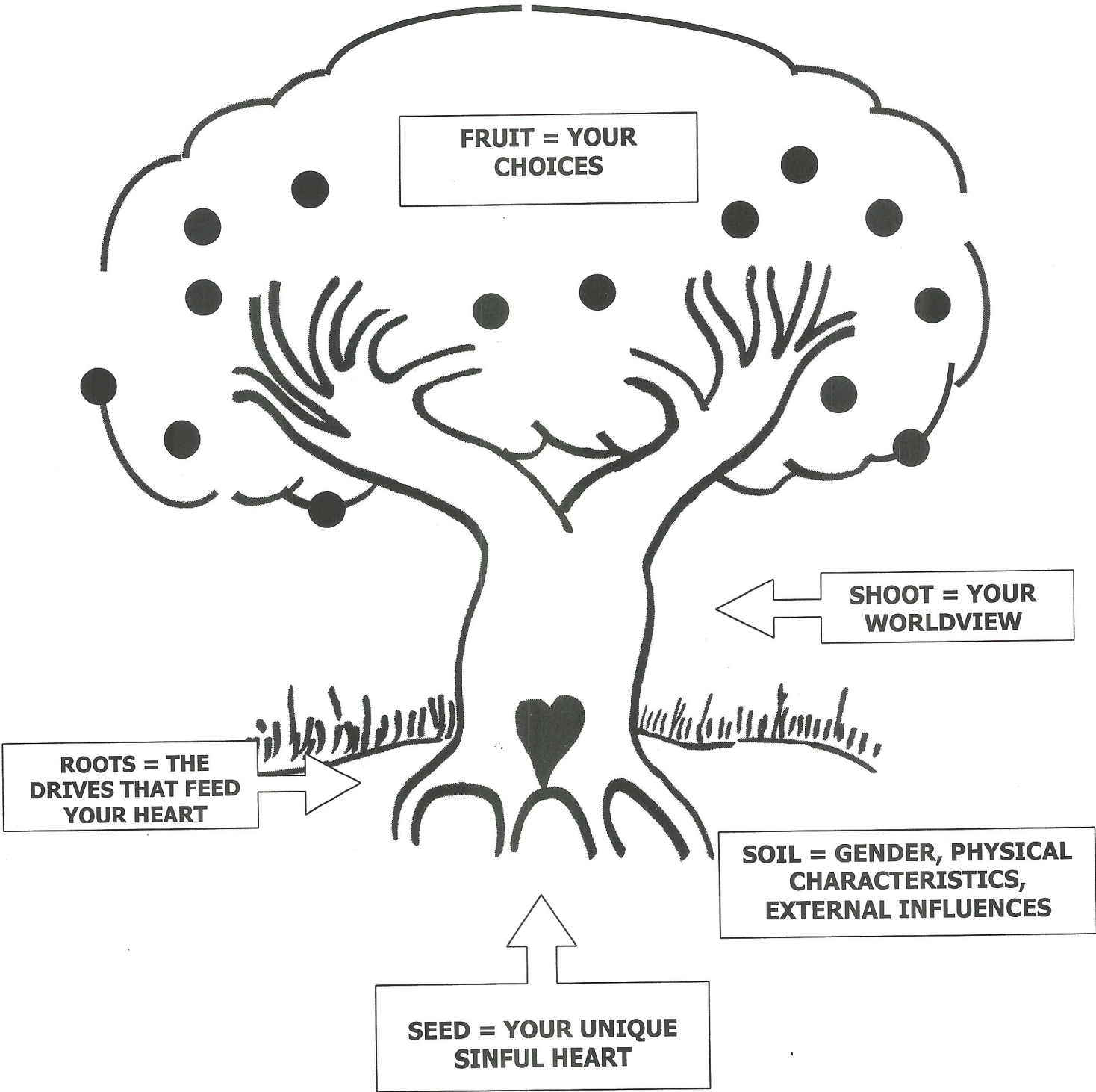
Happy is good. Holy is better.

Relationships are a spiritual discipline designed to help us know God better, trust him more fully, and love him more deeply. What if God's primary intent for our relationships is not to make us happy...but instead holy?

Christians most need is help in becoming holier. With this perspective, relationships train us to love God and others well, they expose sin and make us more aware of God's presence. They can foster good prayer, feed our spiritual life, and more.

Relationships help uncover the mystery of God's overarching purpose. This perspective will most certainly change us. Because whether it is delightful or difficult, relationships can become a doorway to a closer walk with God and to a spiritual integrity that, like salt, seasons the world around us with the savor of Christ.

# THE TREE MODEL



## *Moving from the Fruit to the Heart....*

**FRUIT:** Particular behaviors, thoughts, relationships that reflect the condition of our heart.

**SHOOT/TRUNK:** Our filtering mechanism, our worldview. What we believe about God, about ourselves and about others.

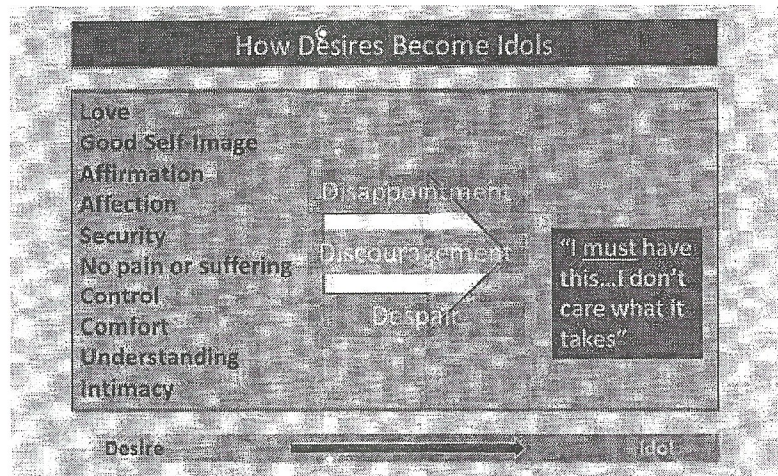
**ROOTS:** Desires that feed the Heart. God gave us desires. We nurture them into idols.

**SOIL:** External influences such as gender, physical characteristics, family, culture, peer pressure, trauma, personality. These are things we have not control over in the past or the present. Perceived or actual.

**SEED:** The human heart. The central longing of the human heart is to be like God. It is to be autonomous from God.



# Out-of-Control Desires Resource Tool



		Desire	→	Idol
<b>Love</b>	Name	<b>Love</b>		<b>Selfishness</b>
	Description	We were created with a desire to be loved and to love God and others		We demand worship from others
	Key Question	What is my relationship to others?		
	Scripture to Help Someone Struggling with This Idol	Hosea 2:19-20 Hosea 11:3-4 Hosea 14:4 Isaiah 43:4 Romans 5:5 Romans 5:8 1 John 3:16 1 John 4:7-11 1 John 4:18 1 John 4:19		



		Desire	→	Idol
<b>Positive Self-Image</b>	Name	<b>Positive Self-Image</b>		<b>Perfectionism or Self-Loathing</b>
	Description	We were created to enjoy a realistic self-image as one who was created in God's own image, perfect and sinless		<b>Perfectionism:</b> We strive for physical, moral or accomplishments-based perfection and find our worth and identity there  <b>Self-Loathing:</b> We hate ourselves because we realize we can't attain to our own standards of perfection, and are afraid our weakness will be seen by others
	Key Question	Where do I find my identity?		
	Scripture to Help Someone Struggling with This Idol	Psalms 8:3-6 Psalms 139:13-16 Isaiah 56:4-5 Romans 8:15-16 Romans 8:23-25 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 Ephesians 3:14-21 1 John 3:1-2		

		Desire	→	Idol
<b>Affirmation</b>	Name	<b>Affirmation</b>		<b>People-Pleasing</b>
	Description	We were created to receive appropriate praise and affirmation from God and others in all we do		We manipulate others to get them to say what we want to hear— <i>either</i> that we are valuable and worthy of praise, <i>or</i> that we are worthless (which absolves us of responsibility for what we do)
	Key Question	Where do I find my worth and value?		
	Scripture to Help Someone Struggling with This Idol	Psalms 139:3-16 Jeremiah 1:5 Romans 7:4 Romans 8:14 Romans 8:31-39 Galatians 4:6-7 Ephesians 2:4-7		

		Desire	→	Idol
<b>Affection</b>	Name	<b>Affection</b>		<b>Antagonism</b>
	Description	We were created to enjoy appropriate positive touch and emotional enrichment from others		Our craving for affection leads us to isolate ourselves from others physically and emotionally. We silently (or not-so-silently) hate others because we fear their ability to criticize us
	Key Question	Where do I find lived-out examples of love, tenderness and nurture in my life?		
	Scripture to Help Someone Struggling With This Idol	Psalms 4:7-8 Psalms 17:8 Psalms 103:13 Isaiah 40:11 Isaiah 43:4 Isaiah 62:2-5 Hosea 11:3-4, 8-9 Zephaniah 3:17		

		Desire	→	Idol
<b>Security</b>	Name	<b>Security</b>		<b>Unbridled Fear</b>
	Description	We were created to trust in God's sovereign goodness, and to dwell in safety and security		We fear that if we don't go on the offensive, we will lose the relationships, the money, the jobs, the reputation that gives us definition and permanence
	Key Question	Where do I find my rest?		
	Scripture to Help Someone Struggling with This Idol	Exodus 14:14 Psalms 4:8 Psalms 60:11-12 Psalms 138:7 Jeremiah 29:11 Luke 12:22-32 Romans 8:1 Romans 8:38-39		

<b>Freedom from Pain and Suffering</b>	<b>Desire</b> → <b>Idol</b>	
	<b>Name</b>	<b>No Pain or Suffering</b>
	<b>Description</b>	<p>Pain and suffering entered the human experience after the Fall. We were created to live lives that were not subject to the frustration of physical or emotional pain, or the suffering that diminishes every human relationship and endeavor.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Complaining <i>or</i> Ingratitude</b></p> <p><b>Complaining:</b> We tell God and others regularly how much they have failed to live up to our expectations of providing us with a carefree, painless life</p> <p><b>Ingratitude:</b> We fail to thank God for his gracious provision for us, because it doesn't meet our criteria for the kind of painless life we demand</p>	
	<b>Key Question</b>	What brings me lasting peace?
<b>Scripture to Help Someone Struggling with This Idol</b>	<p>Genesis 16:11b          Psalms 116:1-7          Psalms 121:1-8          Psalms 123:1-2          Psalms 131:1-3          Isaiah 43:10-13          Isaiah 43:1-2          Isaiah 53:4-11          Habakkuk 3:17-19          Micah 7:18-20          John 16:33          Romans 5:3-5</p>	

<b>Control</b>	<b>Desire</b> → <b>Idol</b>	
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Control</b>
	<b>Description</b>	<p>We were created to rest in the perfect order of God's creation, maintained by his providence and sovereign love</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Being Controlling</b></p> <p>We fear that God is not in control of the world or our lives, and so we fight for control wherever possible—in relationships, in our schedules, in how others serve us</p>	
	<b>Key Question</b>	Can I really trust God to be good...to me?
<b>Scripture to Help Someone Struggling with This Idol</b>	<p>Psalms 44:4-7          Psalms 139:16          Luke 11:2-4          Luke 11:13          Romans 8:28-30          Galatians 5:1</p>	

		Desire	→	Idol
<b>Comfort</b>	Name	<b>Comfort</b>		<b>Hopelessness or Depression</b>
	Description	We were created to receive perfect comfort and assurance from God, by virtue of his character and presence with us		<b>Hopelessness:</b> We doubt God cares for us, and believe that he is unconcerned with our comfort  <b>Depression:</b> Our hopelessness turns inward, and we begin to withdraw from reality because it seems too overwhelming
	Key Question	Does God really care about what I'm going through?		
	Scripture to Help Someone Struggling with This Idol	Psalms 7:1 Psalms 55:22 Isaiah 40:28-31 Isaiah 41:10 Isaiah 41:13 Isaiah 43:5 Isaiah 54:4-8 John 14:27 Philippians 4:4-7		

		Desire	→	Idol
<b>Being Understood</b>	Name	<b>Understanding</b>		<b>Isolated</b>
	Description	We were created to experience God as a transcendent God who knows us completely and is able to help us interpret our lives and experiences		Convinced that God is uninterested in knowing me or how I feel, I move away from God and from others to protect myself and my feelings
	Key Question	Is it safe for me to be real with God and others?		
	Scripture to Help Someone Struggling with This Idol	Matthew 6:8 John 11:34-36 John 13:3-5 John 14:20 Romans 8:26-27 1 Corinthians 13:12 Hebrews 2:18 Hebrews 4:14-16		

		Desire	→	Idol
<b>Intimacy</b>	Name	<b>Intimacy</b>		<b>False Intimacy</b>
	Description	We were created to experience joy in our relationship with God; knowing him fully, and being fully known by him without shame		Because we are incapable of pursuing godly intimacy with God and others, we settle for the false intimacy of manipulative and selfish relationships, and of sexual sin
	Key Question	Is it safe to trust God and others?		
	Scripture to Help Someone Struggling with This Idol	Jeremiah 29:13 John 6:54-57 John 10:14 John 15:13-15 Romans 8:15-17 Romans 8:26-27 Romans 8:31-35 Ephesians 3:14-21 Ephesians 4:14-16 Ephesians 4:25		

## Notes on Idolatry in General

Idols are generally out-of-control, otherwise *good* desires that we have allowed to take control of our heart—and our behavior.

Just like idols made of wood, metal and clay, we bow down to worship them, believing that they are more important to us in that moment than anything else. We sacrifice to them whatever we believe is necessary to satisfy them. We go out of our way to protect them, even by shielding them from the gaze and concern of others who care about us.

If that wasn't bad enough, the true absurdity of serving idols is that we think we're using them to get what we want (i.e., the underlying desire)—but the idols actually wind up controlling us. That's why the behavior associated with idolatry often takes on the form of compulsion, or even addiction.

Here are a few passages of Scripture that talk about idolatry, and what repentance from it looks like:

Hosea 14:8

Psalms 115:4-8

Isaiah 40:19-20

Isaiah 57:10

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 10:13-14

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

## A Model for Helping: Integrating Biblical Truth And the Individual's Experience

*Getting to know    Thinking critically    Pointing to Jesus*

