

## **Luxuria: lust to love**

**James 4:1-4** Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your **desires for pleasure (LUST)** that war in your members? You **lust (CRAVE)** and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your **pleasures (LUST)**. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

## **We are destroying ourselves with temporal desires**

“For the secret of man’s being is not only to live but to live for something definite. Without a firm notion of what He is living for, man will not except life and will rather destroy himself than remain on earth” - Brothers Karamozov

What then is Lust, is it not desire that has become fixed upon the temporary which cannot sustain us, in turn it draws ever deeper into it’s forbidden territories with the false promise of soul satisfaction?

**Jas 4:2** You lust and do not have.

As we have entered into our brave new individualism we have deteriorated into a morally unstable self-indulgent society

It is a fact the pursuit for fulfillment apart from God through our animal instincts pulls us further away from the image of God and turns more into the animal

“If there is no God, everything is permitted,” wrote the Russian novelist, Fyodor Dostoevsky.

We live in the age of the Playboy philosophy a form of radical individualism that says: “If it feels good do it.”

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your **desires for pleasure (LUST)** that war in your members?

## **(2) Hedone, delight in sensuality**

The porn industry is at 1.8 Billion according to Forbes

While the global cosmetics, toiletries and fragrance industry is worth 6.2 billion

With pedophilia, bestiality and human sex trafficking on the rise we have to ask the question is our modernity working out as well as thought it would. Is this progress or regress?

## The Pursuit of Happiness

What we seek so ardently proves in the end to be the opposite of what we hoped

To suppose that this universe was created and you and I put in to it in order to fulfill our sensual appetites is not only to demean life but to falsify it as well

Seeking fulfillment through our sensual appetites is not a satisfactory basis for living through a single day

Sexual liberation has not brought about a healthy outworking of natural instincts. The prevalent idea that sexual appetite cannot be restrained without causing psychological harm has not held to be true, on the contrary instead of it satisfying the instinct it has been enflamed, enlarged, deformed, and unhealthy both spiritually and physically.

**1Jo 2:16-17 For all that *is* in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

Our liberties have enslaved us we thought we were free to pursue what ever we wanted and left to our own devices we have discovered we make horrible masters

You do have the right to do what you want but you do not get to chooses the outcome!

## We are burying ourselves in graves of lust

**Nu 11:34** So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving.

## Luxuria is deadly it will bury you!

**James 1:15** Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

## Desires Are The Driving Forces of Life

Desire itself is not bad but God given it is what is desired that qualifies it's health or sickness

Our desires are weak not strong

“Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

We cannot remove desire the remedy for life is not less

life but more life.

We need a central longing a central desire

**Ps 37:4** Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

**3 steps to move ourselves from lust to love:**

**1. Attention 2.Meekness and 3. Power**

### **1. Attention**

**Whatever has our attention has us**

**1Corinthians 2:16** For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

**Ephesians 4:23** and be renewed in the spirit of your mind

**Psalms 119:9** How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

**We must have a center give Christ your full attention**

### **2. Meekness**

**Mt 5:5** Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Meekness is surrender of self-control Christ has your attention now give him control

When we have surrendered our life and desires to Christ in meekness those secondary desires go from destroying us to serving a higher purpose.

The world is no longer a system that dominates our appetites but serves the one who overcame it

### **3. Power**

**Ro 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Our attention fixed on Jesus and surrender to Him in meekness releases the power of God into our lives.

We are now free not to do what others do but free to do what they cannot do – to be a contributive soul, full of light and power

**Lust-Controlled or Love-Controlled?**

**2Co 5:14** For the love of Christ compels (constrains) us,

If Lust is the vice Love is the virtue  
Lust devours love develops

One is the touch of death the other the touch of life