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Sermon Notes

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## **Thyatira: The Evil of Tolerating Sin**

### **Revelation 2:18-29**

America is a nation that prides itself on toleration... the ability to be a melting pot, where people of radically different backgrounds can live in close proximity and get along with each other. That was the vision of the American dream, a meritocracy where all the world could come and share in the amazing bounty...

While such a vision makes sense in terms of daily life in the wheat and weeds world that Jesus described in his parable – a world mixed up with the righteous and the wicked living in such close proximity and looking so much like each other that to root up the weeds, the wheat might also be pulled up... however much that vision makes sense in the public square, it is absolutely not the vision we have of the church.

The church was established by Christ as the pillar and foundation of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15). The church was meant to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-14), retarding the spread of evil and shining for the glory of God.

However, in the last fifty years or so, little by little America's onslaught of open sexual immorality, and its attack on exclusive truth claims has devastated the church. We are told we live in a post-modern world in which claiming to have discovered absolute truth about life and death, heaven and hell, salvation and especially about God is ARROGANT. Along with that has come an assault on the concept of HOLINESS in local churches... churches are called on to be TOLERANT of sin, to CELEBRATE DIVERSITY, to embrace other religions, to give up the claim that Christ is the only way to God, to redefine sin, especially sexual sin and call any form of love between two people a good thing.

The church in America is especially under a powerful SEXUAL assault, a constant allure toward lust, toward adultery in the heart and with the body... the rise of the internet, with its secrecy and accessibility has brought images of sexual immorality constantly knocking on our brains

We have been deluded into thinking that the things we do in secret make no difference in our spiritual lives, that Christ doesn't really care what websites we click onto, that all that matters is our doctrine and our general performance of Christian duties.

If any of you really think that, Jesus' letter to the church of Thyatira is a MAJOR WAKE-UP CALL... it is actually a terrifying letter to read if you are harboring a secret sin pattern, especially a sexual sin

We need to hear this searching letter, and allow our HOLY JUDGE and compassionate Savior to search our hearts and our minds with his eyes of blazing fire. We need him to trample our sin patterns with his feet of burnished bronze. We need to hear him speaking to us by the Spirit a word of terrifying warning, threatening earthly disciplines – even physical torment in disease and suffering as a discipline for sin. We need to hear the ultimate warning of eternal condemnation for those who never repent and who think to live DOUBLE LIVES free from all scrutiny... lives hidden in darkness, shrouded in secrecy.

This terrifying letter to Thyatira is a massive wakeup call for a tolerant, easy-going, lax church in America that needs the fear of the Lord to begin a life of wisdom and holiness.

#### I. How Jesus Describes Himself: Eyes of Fire, Feet of Bronze

***Revelation 2:18 “To the angel of the church of Thyatira, write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.”***

##### A. Awesome Description

1. Jesus is speaking directly to this local church
2. He begins by emphasizing his DEITY in unforgettable terms: THESE ARE THE WORDS OF THE SON OF GOD...
3. His open appeal to deity emphasizes his right to JUDGE
4. Usually Jesus identifies himself to these churches with only images taken from what John saw in chapter 1... but here, he uses a term not used in Revelation 1, and actually never used again in this book: SON OF GOD; in Revelation 1 he is described as “one like a Son of Man”
5. Jesus is GOD THE SON... and he has a message of purifying judgment to give to this secretly sinning church

6. He also describes his own eyes: EYES LIKE BLAZING FIRE; this underscores two things—his perfect holiness and his ability to pierce through their secrecy to see everything they are doing

***Hebrews 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.***

***Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.***

- a. The sinners in Thyatira were thinking NO ONE SEES, NO ONE KNOWS... but Jesus has eyes of blazing fire

***Jeremiah 23:24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.***

- b. At the end of Revelation, when Jesus comes to destroy his enemies, he uses this exact same description

***Revelation 19:11-13 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns.***

- c. Jesus also describes his feet as glowing like burnished bronze... this brings this terrifying image to mind

***Revelation 19:15 He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.***

- d. His feet are perfectly pure as he tramples out wickedness

## B. The Church at Thyatira

1. What do we know about Thyatira and the church that Jesus is addressing so powerfully?
2. The church
  - a. No one really knows how this church was planted
  - b. Lydia, the first convert in Philippi, was a dealer in purple cloth from Thyatira
  - c. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's preaching of the gospel
  - d. However, she lived in Philippi by then... we have no record of any involvement she may have had in helping a church be planted in her native city

- e. Most likely: this church was part of the general outreach Paul did from Ephesus as recorded in Acts 19:10, where it says that, from Ephesus, the whole region of Asia heard the word of the Lord

### 3. Thyatira the City:

- a. As I already mentioned, Thyatira was the smallest and least significant of these seven cities
- b. It was situated along that curving postal road beyond the church at Pergamum... the road curved east, then southeast some forty miles away from Pergamum
- c. It was located in a long valley situated in a north-south direction connecting the valleys of the Caicus and Hermus rivers
- d. Unlike many Greek cities, it had no acropolis... no high place on which to build a fortress to protect the populace from an invader... Thyatira was built on a flat plain
- e. Therefore, it was vulnerable to attack
- f. The Romans conquered it in 190 B.C. and they annexed it as part of their growing Empire... that brought it under the Roman peace and suddenly, their situation along that trade route made it prosper
- g. The trade guilds in Thyatira flourished and people grew wealthy
- h. The trade guilds of Thyatira included the production of wool and dyed cloths, especially purple goods such as Lydia sold... the purple dye was a luxury item; it came from the madder root
- i. Other trade guilds there included tailors, metal craftsmen, tanners, leatherworkers, and linenmakers
- j. These trade guilds were woven together with their pagan religions so that, if anyone wanted to excel among them, they had to sacrifice to the gods and goddesses
- k. This meant that the Christians faced a huge dilemma in terms of making a living... would they “go along to get along” or would they stand firm for Christ??

Jesus’ commendation of this church shows how they generally answered this pressing dilemma... for this church STOOD FIRM in their faith in Christ

## II. How Jesus Commends the Church: Deeds, Love, Faith, Perseverance, Growth

***Revelation 2:19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.***

A. This is an IMPRESSIVE LIST of Commendations!

B. He Starts with their Deeds... their works

1. This was a hardworking church... they were energetically doing the works of outreach and Christian witness
2. They cared for each other, serving each other

C. Next... Christ Commends their LOVE

1. Unlike the church at Ephesus, they had not “forsaken their first love”
2. These deeds flowed from hearts of love for Christ and for each other
3. Theirs was not a cold, machine-like service, cranking out good works with hearts far from God

D. Next, Christ Commends their Faith

1. Faith is the eyesight of the soul... faith comes by hearing the Word
2. The church at Thyatira did deeds motivated by faith and love

E. Next, Christ Commends their Service and Perseverance

1. They had hearts of service to their Lord... they weren't too proud to work hard for him
2. And they persevered in this service and in faith and love... this usually speaks to PERSECUTION... undoubtedly, the Thyatiran guilds put pressure on the Christians, and they resisted that pressure and persevered in loving service to Christ

F. Finally, Christ Commends their Progress... they were GROWING!

***Revelation 2:19 “... your recent deeds are greater than at first”***

1. Unlike the church at Ephesus, they were not backsliding but increasing
2. Unlike the church at Sardis that had a reputation of being alive based on their past deeds, but they were actually dead... this church at Thyatira was actually growing in their deeds... MORE and MORE

It seems hard to imagine that a church with such a comprehensive sentence of commendation from Jesus Christ could have such a fatal flaw in their heart

This is what makes all of this so scary, and so vital for us churchgoers to listen to carefully

A toleration of sexual sin in the heart, and a secret pattern of illicit sexual activities effectively nullifies all the other good of this church

### III. How Jesus Judges the Church: Toleration of Jezebel the Immoral

***Revelation 2:20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.***

#### A. The Danger is from Within, Not from Without

1. Unlike Smyrna, the deadly danger faced by this church was an evil WITHIN... from her OWN CHURCH MEMBERS

#### B. The Threat: Sexual Immorality Taught by a Woman Prophetess

1. The contagion, the lethal tumor was SIN... specifically sexual sin... and pagan worship (eating meat sacrificed to idols)
2. The teaching was alluring, enticing some of Jesus' blood-bought servants into immorality... they were being led astray by her
3. The sexual immorality was undoubtedly linked to the pagan worship pattern in the temples, by which pagans of old used to worship their deities by wickedness, violating laws of purity and marital fidelity
4. The teaching was similar to that of the Balaamites/Nicolaitans of Pergamum... permissiveness in the name of the grace of God
5. They turned the grace of God into a license for immorality, saying what you do with your bodies doesn't matter at all
6. Christianity cut across all this and DEMANDED that the soul and the body live in harmony with the truth, that every aspect of our lives be in conformity to Christ

***1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, <sup>5</sup> not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God***

***Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.***

C. “Jezebel” the Prophetess

1. the leader of this immoral faction was clearly identified
2. the text identifies her specifically as a woman... “That woman Jezebel”
3. She was a real woman, but the name Jezebel was symbolic
4. The woman of Thyatira “called herself a prophetess”... implying that she was taking to herself a role and gift God had not given her
5. In the New Testament era, there were female prophetesses identified, and they were godly
6. But this woman was going beyond boundaries the Lord had set up... she had established herself as a teacher of men in the church

***1 Timothy 2:12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.***

7. Why does Jesus call her “Jezebel”?
  - a. Jezebel was one of the most notoriously wicked women of the Old Testament
  - b. She was a pagan, a queen in Israel, married to the wicked and weak King Ahab
  - c. She directly led Ahab, their household and all of Israel into openly worshipping Baal and Ashtaroah, the god and goddess of fertility
  - d. That pagan religion demanded sexual immorality as a part of its worship rituals
  - e. Jezebel also financially supported 850 prophets of Baal and killed off all the prophets of the Lord she could find
  - f. She was famous for idolatry and witchcraft
  - g. Ahab lacked any moral courage to confront her or stop her; he was a weak man dominated by a powerful and wicked woman, and he became as wicked as she was

- h. She convinced Ahab to steal Naboth's vineyard, and when he lacked even the evil strength to do it, she took matters in her own hands and orchestrated Naboth's death by two false witnesses
- i. The prophet Elijah confronted her evil by slaughtering all her false prophets on Mt. Carmel, whereupon she threatened to kill him by tomorrow... Elijah was terrified of her and fled for his life
- j. Eventually, this most evil of woman came to a terrible end; Elijah had predicted that dogs would lick up the blood of her weak husband Ahab; and so they did... and Elijah predicted the same thing would happen to her, when God sent the avenger, Jehu, to kill her... and dogs devoured her wicked body

The utter revulsion with which we read this terrible story was completely appropriate... and this is the woman Jesus is comparing the prophetess and false teacher of Thyatira to

The new Jezebel of Thyatira probably led her followers into SECRET RITUALS, for Jesus says this:

***Revelation 2:24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets***

In secret, they did disgusting things with their bodies

In secret, they ate meats sacrificed to detestable idols

In secret, they learned inside cultic practices and grew darker and darker

#### D. The Church's Sin: Toleration

1. Jesus specifically charges the church with the sin of TOLERATION... of allowing this evil to go unchecked
2. The church is required to ACT on sin, not to sit passively by while it happened
3. Ephesus HATED the practices of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:6)
4. Pergamum had some people who followed those practices (Revelation 2:14-15)
5. But Thyatira TOLERATED it, giving secret CONSENT to the false teaching of this evil woman

#### E. The Terror of Impending Judgment

1. Jesus has already identified himself as having EYES OF BLAZING FIRE



2. Now, he shows how terrifying he can be

***Revelation 2:21-23 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. <sup>22</sup> So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. <sup>23</sup> I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.***

3. "I have given her time to repent of her immorality... but she is unwilling"
- a. Jesus is the silent, constantly present observer of everything we do in secret
  - b. Jesus, with his eyes of blazing fire, was watching every evil deed Jezebel was doing, all of her evil ways
  - c. He did not immediately strike her dead, as he was capable of doing
  - d. Rather, he began a secret clock ticking in his head... giving her some undisclosed amount of time to repent
  - e. He didn't OWE HER that time, but he graciously gave it to her
  - f. Our God is a patient and loving God, but this ticking time clock is a terrifying thing for all people living in sin
  - g. People think that, just because God hasn't done anything about the sin, he doesn't really care about it
  - h. Nothing could be further from the truth

***Isaiah 42:14 "For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back.***

***Isaiah 57:11 Is it not because I have long been silent that you do not fear me?***

***Psalms 50:21 These things you have done and I kept silent; you thought I was altogether like you. But I will rebuke you and accuse you to your face.***

- i. Why doesn't God strike her dead right away?? Because he is patient with the wicked, giving opportunity to repent

***Romans 2:4-6 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? <sup>5</sup> But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup> God "will give to each person according to what he has done."***

- j. “she is unwilling” is the death knell for her... Jesus is going to strike her dead

I wonder how many people even in this room are on a ticking time clock, hiding a secret pattern of sin, and the Lord is graciously giving you time to repent... so it was in THYATIRA

So now, this word of judgment comes:

***Revelation 2:22-23 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. <sup>23</sup> I will strike her children dead, unless they repent of her ways***

4. “I will cast her on a bed of suffering”...
  - a. ironic because she does her immorality in bed
  - b. so Christ gives her a different kind of bed... not a bed of sensual pleasure but a bed of torment
  - c. the clear implication here is Jesus will strike her with a sickness unto death
  - d. and not just her, but all her so-called “children”...those who have been following her secret religion of sex and pleasure... there is a promise of a little more time for them to repent... perhaps as soon as they heard this warning
  - e. the wages of sin is death... and this death will be preceded by suffering

#### F. Jesus Searches Hearts and Minds

***Revelation 2:23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.***

##### 1. Jesus SEARCHES HEARTS AND MINDS

- a. Even on earth, his ability to read minds was stunning to people...

***Matthew 12:25 Jesus knew their thoughts***

***Luke 5:22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?"***

***John 5:42 I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.***

- b. We must realize that every one of our thoughts is as an OPEN BOOK to Christ’s blazing eyes of fire

c. There are no secrets from him, and he plumbs the depths of our hearts... the trouble is there is so much evil there

d. All we can do is say

***Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.***

2. The death penalty for sin is openly taught in scripture

3. God is so patient, so gracious... but we should not PRESUME on that grace to continue living willfully in sin

G. Jesus Rewards or Punishes According to our Deeds

***Revelation 2:23 ... I will repay each of you according to your deeds.***

1. We are not saved by works, but we are EVALUATED (judged) by works

2. It very much matters what we do with our bodies

3. Judgment Day is always depicted as a rewarding or punishing based on our works

***Romans 2:6-8 God "will give to each person according to what he has done." <sup>7</sup> To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup> But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.***

4. Sometimes that judgment comes early... in the case of Jezebel and her unrepentant followers, the death penalty came with no further warning and they died under Christ's just word

IV. How Jesus Commands the Church: Hold Fast to Purity

A. Churches MUST NOT TOLERATE Sin

1. Every sinning member must be called upon to repent of sin

2. If they fail to repent, they must be excommunicated

***1 Corinthians 5:9-13 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people... With such a man do not even eat. <sup>12</sup> What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? <sup>13</sup> God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."***

B. Christ Calls on the Pure in Thyatira to Do Their Duty

1. Hold on and don't get sucked in... don't TOLERATE evil

***Revelation 2:24-25 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you):<sup>25</sup> Only hold on to what you have until I come.***

#### C. Jesus Doesn't Impose Extra Burdens

1. He is not calling on the church to overreact and go to asceticism, forbidding marriage or saying the body is evil
2. Marriage should still be held in honor and the marriage bed delighted in
3. We don't fight false doctrine by imposing an equally false legalism

#### D. HOLD FAST to What You Have Until I Come

1. They must persevere in holiness for the rest of their lives
2. They must HOLD FAST... the world, the flesh, the devil will assault them ever step of the way... it will be a hard fight for purity

***2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith***

#### V. How Jesus Rewards the Overcomers: Authority and a Star

***Revelation 2:26-28 To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations--<sup>27</sup> 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery' --just as I have received authority from my Father.<sup>28</sup> I will also give him the morning star.***

##### A. Rewards for the Conquerors... for the Overcomers

##### B. First Reward: Reigning with Christ

1. The VICTORS will reign with Christ in the New Heavens and the New Earth
  - a. Christ is going to give people varying levels of power and authority in the New Universe he is making
  - b. The more faithful we are in this world, the more glory and power we will have under Christ in the coming world

##### C. Second Reward: The Morning Star

1. This is a symbol of Christ himself... as Balaam saw, a star rising in Jacob

2. Paul himself likened the resurrected saints to shining stars in 1 Cor. 15, saying “star differs from star in splendor.”
3. So for Christ to give to the overcomes the morning star is to reveal himself in his glory, perhaps a foretaste of Christ’s second coming glory like the morning star is a foretaste
4. The more we conquer our lusts and seek to satisfy our thirsts in the living water of Christ, the more of his hidden glory he will reveal to us, the more he will be to us the BRIGHT MORNING STAR foretelling his Second Coming glory

## VI. Applications

### A. This Letter PLEADS with sinners to come to Christ!!

1. It is because of such sins as sexual immorality that wrath is going to come to the earth
2. We MUST NOT BE DECEIVED!! God will judge all the sexually immoral, and there are no secrets from him
3. Christ is the only refuge! 1 Corinthians 6 says FLEE IMMORALITY! But FLEE WHERE??? Christ is the only refuge from the wrath to come... he is the safe place
4. Christ died on the cross to cleanse sinners from their sins
5. Simply trust in him for your salvation... confess that you are a sinner and that Christ’s death atones for your sins; confess that God raised Christ from the dead into a new life, and you want to live a new life in Christ

### Christians:

### B. FLEE SEXUAL IMMORALITY!!

1. This letter to Thyatira warns us about “that woman Jezebel” who entices the servants of God to commit sexual immorality
2. Ours is an age super-saturated with sexually alluring images and enticements on the internet and really everywhere... the very air we breathe leads us toward sexual sin
3. The statistics on pornography are heartbreaking

90% of children ages 8-16 have viewed porn

the largest consumers of pornography are boys aged 12-17

70% of men ages 18-34 visit a porn site in a typical month

\$10-\$14 billion is spent annually on porn

1 in 6 women struggles with porn addiction

The church is NOT IMMUNE to this temptation... not at all!!

Those who identify themselves as born-again Christians have similar struggles with pornography and affairs:

- 95 percent admit that they have viewed pornography.
  - 54 percent look at pornography at least once a month.
  - 44 percent viewed pornography at work in the last 90 days.
  - 31 percent had a sexual affair while married.
  - 25 percent erase Internet browsing history to conceal pornography use.
- 18 percent admit being addicted to pornography (and another 9 percent think they may be).

4. Jesus makes it plain that he HATES this corruption in the hearts of his people!

***Revelation 2:21-23 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. <sup>22</sup> So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. <sup>23</sup> I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.***

If you are ensnared in a pattern of sexual sin, you are ON A AN INVISIBLE CLOCK... Jesus is GIVING YOU an UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF TIME to repent... the clock is ticking... and death or other disciplines is threatened... we are to FEAR and to FLEE... Jesus is searching our hearts and minds RIGHT NOW, and we have NO TIME TO LOSE!

***Colossians 3:5-6 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.***

***Galatians 5:21 I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.***

5. If you are ensnared by a pattern of sexual immorality—either in MIND or in ACTION

C. Follow True Repentance (Thomas Watson, Puritan pastor)

Prescription with six vital ingredients for sinners: SIG

- Sight of sin
- Sorrow for sin
- Confession of sin
- Shame for sin
- Hatred of sin
- Turning from sin

1. Sight of sin:

see the sin with the eyes of faith, see it for what it really is in the sight of your holy Lord; see the sin as it will look on Judgment Day when all secrets will be open and laid bare

2. Sorrow for sin

Grieve over the sin; James 4 says "Grieve mourn and wail; change your laughter to sorrow and your joy to weeping"; without genuine sorrow, you are not linked with the Holy Spirit, who is GRIEVED with your sin

3. Confession of sin

Get on your knees and confess the sin to Jesus; call it by its biblical name – mental adultery... sexual immorality... wickedness! Tell him what you have done, how many times, what aggravations there are – why it's particularly grievous for YOU PERSONALLY to have done this after all the kindness Christ has shown to you...

***1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.***

4. Shame for sin

Feel the shamefulness of this sin... how evil it is to have done this, how much you have betrayed your confession of Christ, how like the tax collector, you cannot even lift your eyes to heaven but must beat your breast and say "Be merciful to me, O God, the sinner!" FEEL THE SHAME burn within you! Yes, you will have no shame in heaven, but you are NOT IN HEAVEN YET! You are still in danger! You are still on the battlefield! The world, the flesh and the devil are daily assaulting you! You must feel

SHAME for the sin like you need to feel pain when touching the fire... it keeps you SAFE

#### 5. Hatred of sin

Loathe this sin of pornography! Hate it with a perfect hatred! It has deceived you! It has led you from the path of salvation... from the way of righteousness... it is a dark, evil thing; it is the enemy of your soul, it threatens to uproot all your harvest. HATE IT as Jesus hates it. Don't be mild-mannered about this

#### 6. Turning from sin

STOP DOING IT!!! Turn in your heart to a new course of action! "U-Turn!!!" Change your habits on the computer. Get accountability. Put protection in. Cut off your right hand if it is causing you to sin! Gouge out your right eye if it is causing you to sin!

That is what true repentance is... sight of sin, sorrow for sin, confession of sin, shame for sin, hatred of sin, turning from sin

But once you've repented, you now need to FIGHT this sin for the rest of your lives!

#### D. John Owen: Mortification

***Romans 8:13-14 if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, <sup>14</sup> because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.***

1. Put sin to death by the Spirit
2. "Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you!"
3. You MUST kill the sin... you must make it your daily struggle!
4. There is not a day that goes by that sin is not either killing you or you are putting it to death
5. DEATH BY STARVATION!!