

## Pursuit of Joy and Freedom in a World of Addiction and Bondage

### Sobering statistics

**Reactions? Comments? Questions?** See Ephesians 1:18-20. The power of the evil one is significant (as these sad statistics show) but please do not lose hope. The power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the believer is so much greater than the power of the evil one. Standing up in the face of temptation is less about our strength and more about who our eyes are fixed on.

### A Biblical View of Satisfaction / Marriage / Sexuality

Start with how **we** think through these things. Then we'll consider we can shape our kids' hearts in this area. Create a list of ten things which people typically pursue for satisfaction.

#### 1. Satisfaction

Psalms 103:1-5

John 10:10

Matthew 11:28-30

John 15:9-13

Phil 4:11-13, 3:8

Psalms 63:1-3

#### Key Points

- Lasting satisfaction is found only in Jesus.
- Biblical definition of Idolatry: worshipping or seeking satisfaction in something more than Jesus

#### Questions for Reflection

1. What rhythms are set up in your life to help you pursue satisfaction in knowing Jesus?
2. What rhythms are set up in your life to help you pursue satisfaction in other things?
3. What are you prone to idolize?
4. How does your life display (to kids/spouse/others) a living illustration that the deepest satisfaction in life comes from knowing Jesus?

## 2. Marriage and sexuality

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 103:11-12

Matthew 19:3-6

Colossians 3:12-14

Hebrews 13:4

Ephesians 5:21-33

1 John 1:9

### Key Points

- **Marriage:** 1 man, 1 woman, 1 commitment, 1 lifetime (Divorce is a complex and difficult topic which is addressed well at this link: <https://epc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/PositionPaper-DivorceAndRemarriage.pdf>)
- **Sex** (including any sexual gratification) is designed for marriage only.
- **Sexual immorality** is *any* sexual gratification outside of marriage

### Questions for Reflection

1. How have you experienced the power of forgiveness in your life?
2. Reflect on your journey of extending forgiveness to those who are closest to you. How do these verse encourage and challenge you in that journey?

### Application

All sin is ultimately an ordering of loves issue. (An idea discussed thoroughly in *Reordered Love Reordered Lives* by David Naugle)

### Consider your example.

- Be with Him. Become like Him. Do what He did. (A great discipleship summary from John Mark Comer)
- Boundary set thinking vs. centered set thinking
- While the focus is on the center, boundaries still play a role. Discuss experience with boundaries in the following areas: TV/movies, social media, phone, other.