

The Snares of Satan Part 4: *"The Lusts of the Flesh"*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Aug. 27th

Mankind is uniquely created in God's image. (Gen. 1:26,2:7) That means that just as God is "Triune" (Father, Son, Spirit) He created us "Triune". (1 Thes 5:23) Satan seeks to corrupt God's image by using the various drives (desires) of the "body and/or soul" to overwhelm the drives of the "spirit". Satan uses these natural "desires" as bait to attract us so that we end up "*caught in the snare of the devil*". (2 Tim. 2:26) The word "snare" (pagis') means a noose, trap, or stratagem. Satan's Snares are always: **Seductive** (*in that they're baited with something we "want"*); **Subtle** (*in that they're easily "rationalized" see Jer. 17:9*); and **Strong** (*they "trap us" under his influence.*) 2 Tim. 2:19-26 These "snares" are usually baited with either *"the lusts of the flesh (Pleasure), the lusts of the eyes (Possessions) or the "pride of life". (Pride)*. We've already discussed the snare of:

- **Pride and its relation to bitterness and rebellion.** (Heb. 12:15; 1 Sam 15:23)
- **Covetousness and its relation to "Idolatry".** (1 Tim. 6:10 and Col. 3:5,6)

While these "snares" appeal to our "soul" (*mind, will, emotions*) to dominate our (or God's) spirit, "*the lust of the Flesh*" (1 Jn. 2:16) seeks to use our physical drives to overpower our spiritual drives.

1. What Satan uses. (The Meaning)

A. **Lust:** ἐπιθυμία (epithumi'a) translated: lust 31x; concupiscence 3x; desire 3x
1) from epi: to superimpose and thumos: passion or heart.

B. **Flesh:** σάρξ (sarx) flesh 148x; carnal 3x

- 1) Body ({Physical}) (as opposed to the soul or spirit) That which is external (even animalistic.)

2. Why he does this. (The Motive)

A. He seeks to use the "flesh" (body) to dominate or diminish our "spirit".

- 1) "Spirit": Pneuma: breath {of God} vital principle. That which connects us to God! Pr 20:27
- 2) By "diminishing/dominating" our spirit, he isolates us from God. (Is. 59:1,2)

B. He then tries to "hurt" God by hurting (*or getting us to hurt*) what God loves!

- Jn. 10:10 *"the thief comes to steal, kill, destroy..."* (see also 1 Peter 5:8)

3. How he does this: (The Methods)

A. He uses anything that appeals to the temporary satisfaction of the "flesh" without consideration of the effect it will have on the soul or spirit.

- 1) Appeals to "physical" sensuality: (*Touch, Taste, Sight, Smell, Hearing*) James 1:13
"Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lusts and enticed" Deleaz'ō: trapped!

2) He uses our God designed "reward" system.

- a) When our "senses" are stimulated, dopamine is released, (Dope is short for Dopamine!)
 - (1) Continued use affects dopamine receptors in the nucleus accumbens (Pain/pleasure center) and the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) *actually lowering ability to sense pleasure!*
➔ You end up needing more intense "stimuli" to find pleasure.
- b) Hormones Oxytocin and vasopressin are released actually "bonding" the mind to the experience. (Pavlov's classical conditioning.)
- c) EEG tests proved other brain functions (reason centers) were reduced when viewing porn.
- d) The release of endogenous opiates (endorphins) "reward" the practice and solidify the habit.

The Addiction cycle is established!

3) He uses what God intended for good isolated from God's boundaries of protection.

4) This “rebellion” on our part: Isolates us from God (*Is. 59:2*); Exposes us to Satan’s influence (*1 Sam. 15:23, Ro. 6:16; Col 1:13; Eph. 2:1-5*); Always brings terrible consequences! (*Pr. 14:12*)

B. The “god of this world” he has incredible “resources” to appeal to our:

Touch (Sensuality), Taste (Gluttony), Sight (Pornography), Hearing (Music) and even Smell.

We’ll illustrate one aspect of this process as an example. Hebrews 13:4

“Marriage is honorable (tim’ios: valuable) in all, and the bed (koi’tē: {coitus} sexual relations) undefiled. (ami’antos: Clean, Pure, Beautiful, God Given!) but whoremongers (pornos: fornication) and adulterers (moichos’) God will judge.” (krinō: condemn)

We’re in a sex-saturated society. Porn is:

- 1) **Available:** 12% of all web sites are porn.
- 2) **Affordable:** Makes > \$100 billion each year! (Forthcoming: Foulbert, J.D. 2017)
While They use “free” sights to hook you, more than \$3,000 is spent on porn every second!
- 3) **Acceptable:** People viewed not recycling as more “immoral” than Porn. (56% vs only 32%)
- 4) **Anonymous:** Privacy of your phone, computer.
- 5) **Aggressive:** 2016 Time article reports 90% of 304 random scenes contained physical aggression.
- 6) **Active:** Self-made “porn” is exploding through sexting, snap chat, etc.

As a Result of this “marketing”:

- 25% of all web searches are pornographic. (68 million each day!)
- 90 percent of boys and 60 percent of girls are exposed to Internet porn by age 18.
- 78% viewed porn before their 16th birthday.
- 24% had sexual intercourse before turning 16 years old
- 28% viewed porn before turning 12 years old. The PFC isn’t developed until 25!
- 77% of ages 18-30 view porn at least monthly
- 36% of ages 18-30 view porn at least daily.
- 64% men (33% of women) view porn monthly.
- 55% of those married view porn at least once a month
- 56 % divorces involve an obsessive interest in porn.
- 35% of those married had adulterous affairs. Porn use increases adultery rate by more than 300%
- 44% of those ages 18-30 identified themselves as either “addicted” or “maybe addicted” to porn.
- 17% installed a computer program or cell phone app to enhance viewing porn
- There are 116,000 searches for “Child Porn” each day!
- The Most Popular day for porn viewing is Sunday!
- Hypothalamus (the area of the brain that’s interested in sex) and is 2x larger in men.
- 50% brain involves “VISION!”
- The hippocampus (hub of emotion & memory formation) is larger in women.
- 80% don’t have an Internet filter to block porn from computers or cell phones

Sources: www.provenmen.org, “Brain and Sex” J. Childerston PhD, www.psychologytoday.com
www.dailyinfographic.com/the-stats-on-internet-pornography-infographic,

Application: The Challenge: We have sensual weaknesses. Ro. 7:14,15; 18,24

The Choice: Ro. 8:1-6 *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”*

Since we also have access to God’s Spirit, we can choose to allow God to lead us through this field of “landmines” safely. Gal. 5:18-25, Gal. 2:20,21

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God:”

Frustrate: athete’ō: neutralize or violate; Grace: char’is: gratifying (satisfying)

“God’s influence on the heart and it’s reflection in and through the life”

Are you “frustrating” God’s Grace? (1 Peter 2:11 and James 4:7-10)