



LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR PASTORS

Equipping Pastors and Church Leaders working with
sexual issues in the Church through personal
vulnerability.

PART 1: HOW THE LACK OF VULNERABILITY EFFECTS THE CHURCH



Most Pastors will not talk about personal sexual issues because it puts us in a precarious situation. Sharing that they sin is safe, but sharing how they sin is not.

How have you shared your sin(s) in a public arena?

How did it feel?

What were the repercussions?

Or...How have you seen some Pastors mis-use the
pulpit to share everything in their life?



Paul showing both strength,
and weakness

1st Timothy 1:15-16

Before launching into rebukes
towards the Church and
Timothy, Paul shows his own
need of mercy by being
vulnerable.

This *is* a faithful saying and
worthy of all acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into
the world to save sinners, of
whom I am chief. ¹⁶ However,
for this reason I obtained
mercy, that in me first Jesus
Christ might show all
longsuffering, as a pattern to
those who are going to believe
on Him for everlasting life.



King David showing both strength, and weakness

Psalms 38:3-5

There is no soundness in my flesh

Because of Your anger,
Nor *any* health in my bones
Because of my sin.

⁴ For my iniquities have gone
over my head;
Like a heavy burden they are
too heavy for me.

⁵ My wounds are
foul *and* festering
Because of my foolishness.

Lord, all my desire *is* before
You;

The Hall Of Faith of the weak?

Noah	Drunk, naked
Abraham	Sex with his maid, concubines
Sarah	Led husband to have sex with the maid
Jacob	Polygamy, sex with maids
Moses	Polygamy? murderer
Rahab	Harlot
Gideon	Polygamy, concubines, idolatry
Barak	A reluctant judge
Samson	Lustful behavior with women
Jephthah	Mother a prostitute, sacrificed his daughter*
David	Polygamy, concubines, murderer
Samuel	Problematic sons (household, not in order)

Why is it hard to admit Weakness?

We tend to equate faith with strength don't we.

Do you think Paul and Jesus saw this strong religious attitude in the places he went?

Discuss....

Our Call

1st Peter 5

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

How about leading in...

Repentance

Acknowledgement of
sin

Learning to forsake
sinful attitudes and
behaviors

Confession

Repentance

Confession

Acknowledgement of sin

Learning to forsake sinful attitudes and
behaviors

Why this matters?

The story is of a guy who has been in the evangelical Church for 40 years, and unable to break free from his depression to the point of thinking of suicide. He wonders why he is different, why he continues to struggle with the same sin over and over. He must be different than the leaders in his Church. He knows he is.

Upon asking him, “How many sermons have you heard before?” He said he listened to hundreds, even thousands in his lifetime.

“And how many urgent intimate confessions have you heard in those sermons?” The man was dead silent.

Zero



People Matter

What are some of the conclusions the old man had from listening to so many sermons throughout the years?

Think through it, and make a list to discuss.



How many in the Church feel the same way?

There are two ways people learn in the Church:

1. Things that are shared
2. Things that are not shared

Think of the millions of people in the evangelical Churches learning from what is shared, and from what is not shared.

What kind of mental conditioning do you think happens ?



The Teaching Pastor

What are confessions from the pulpit that you have heard?

Are they safe confessions? Why are they safe?

What makes it so difficult to be vulnerable as a Pastor?

What is our number one sin as human beings?

If we had to pick one. Would we want to be seen as morally strong, or as weak to others?

Do you think this plays a part in a teaching ministry? Or how we teach scripture? Discuss

Are there Pastors that you see as strong? Or weak? Why?

PART 2: HOW DOES SHARING VULNERABILITY LOOK?

Romans 7:15-25 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do... But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice... For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So How Do I Share?

Sympathize (To understand) and Empathize (To share feelings with)



How can you be vulnerable in using this passage?

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

Your Thoughts

Is there a place in his commentary where more vulnerability would potentially help the reader?

Commentary of James 1:15

Craig Caster – Discipleship Workbook pg. 82

Example 1 - Though sin does not always cause physical death, the very nature of sin is to injure, harm and kill. Sin results in the death of honor, respect, trust, morals, innocence, dreams and goals. Marriages are broken, innocent children are devastated and lives are shattered when individuals, refusing God's way, choose instead to fulfill themselves apart from Him.

Victory over our flesh and the pull of sin is only possible when we determine moment by moment to abide in an intimate relationship with Christ and walk in the Spirit. This relationship with God does not just happen, but is a continual act of our will, choosing to offer our body, mind, will and emotions to God. We must admit and acknowledge our own depravity; that we are hopeless and helpless without Him, and depend upon Him with the assurance that He will be faithful to

receive and strengthen us

THE LESSON OF THE RICH YOUNG RULER

Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “*‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*” The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

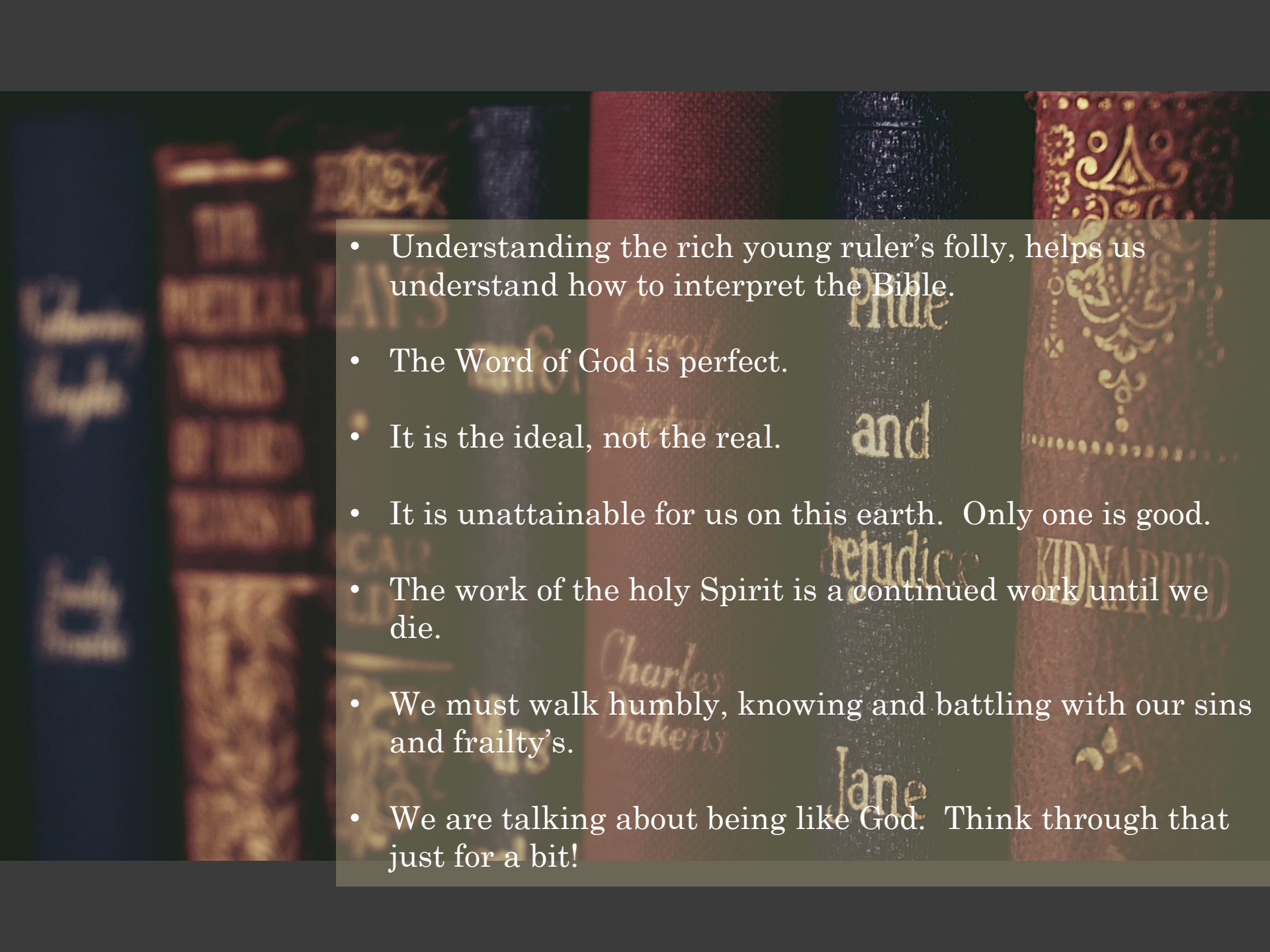
What in his culture
made the rich young
ruler believe that he
could keep the
commands of God?

Pride
and
Prejudice

Charles
Dickens

Jane

KIDNAPPED

- 
- Understanding the rich young ruler's folly, helps us understand how to interpret the Bible.
 - The Word of God is perfect.
 - It is the ideal, not the real.
 - It is unattainable for us on this earth. Only one is good.
 - The work of the holy Spirit is a continued work until we die.
 - We must walk humbly, knowing and battling with our sins and frailty's.
 - We are talking about being like God. Think through that just for a bit!



PART 3: FIGHTING SIN VERSUS REPRESSING IT

Colossians 2:20-23 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

EXAMPLES:

1. NOT PRAYING WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX

The reason I do not pray with those of the opposite sex is because I tend to lust after them sexually. So to help me I would ask that you pray with someone of your specific gender.

2. RULES FOR DATING

We must put up these specific boundaries because if we don't we will have sex before marriage and then God won't "bless" our marriage.

3. WOMEN'S CLOTHING CAUSES MEN TO LUST

If women don't dress in particular ways **they will cause** their Christian brothers to lust.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

C. S. LEWIS

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THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

CS Lewis "Mere Christianity": *"A repressed desire or thought is one which has been thrust into the subconscious (usually at a very early age) and can now come before the mind only in a disguised and unrecognizable form... When an adolescent or an adult is engaged in resisting a conscious desire, he is not dealing with a repression nor is he in the least danger of creating a repression. On the contrary, those who are seriously attempting chastity are more conscious, and soon know a great deal more about their own sexuality than anyone else. They come to know their desires as Wellington knew Napoleon, or as Sherlock Holmes knew Moriarty; as a rat-catcher knows rats or a plumber knows about leaky pipes. Virtue-even attempted virtue-brings light; indulgence brings fog."*

In order to fight our sin we need self-control.

We can only have self-control if we admit to having desires that need to be controlled, not merely by putting up generalized boundaries and pretending that we don't have these desires at all.

If we don't ever fight our sin, we will never understand it. We will blame others for our issues and we will be ill equipped to deal with our struggles.

We could actually be totally blinded to the depth of our depravity. It happened to the religious leaders in Jesus time.

Example: Homosexuality and gender identity.

OBJECTION

- But I do not want there to be a hint of sexual immorality!



- Does this position come from a place of vulnerability or a morally strong one?
- Does this position encourage us to fight sin, or to repress it?
- What does this position affirm to a congregation?
- What are different ways you can communicate a heart for sexual purity while also showing vulnerability?

–St Augustine: *Complete abstinence is easier than perfect moderation.*

PART 4: HOW TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two *are* better than one,
Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if
they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to
him *who is* alone when he falls, For *he has* no one to help
him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep
warm; But how can one be warm *alone*? Though one may
be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And
a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

asexual gay transgender agender
metrosexual third gender heteronormativity
fluid androgyny gender binary
questioning polyamory
butch gender variant emotional attraction
gender identity femme pansexual
bigender transsexual

James 5:19-20

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back. Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

1st Peter 4:8

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”



What the sex talk looks like today?

1ST STEP

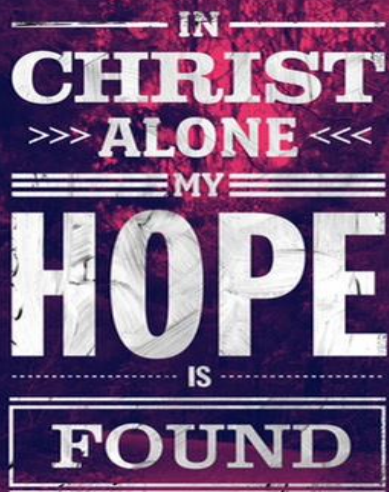
The Scenario – Someone talks to you about pornography, self-gratification, homosexuality, gender identity etc.... What do you do?

1st - Sympathize (To understand) and Empathize (To share feelings with)– As Christ does with us! (Hebrews 4:15)

2nd – Do you wage war against sin? (1st Peter 2:11, Gal 5:17)

- What is your war against? Lust of food, money, reputation, sex, evil thoughts, evil eyes, pride, foolishness, reputation, envy, neglect etc...? (See Mark 7:20-22)

How do you fight lust (selfish desires?)



IN
CHRIST
>>> **ALONE** <<<
MY
HOPE
IS
FOUND

Hope!

When people see your genuine struggle against the world, flesh and the devil, they won't feel so odd and strange. Jesus is also your hope of renewed life here and in the life to come.

"And He saved them out of the their distresses." Psalm 107:13

If a person does not know the power of the cross to forgive sin, they are defeated!

The Gospel's precision!



It is equally dangerous for man to know God without knowing his own wretchedness, and to know his wretchedness without knowing God.

B. Pascal – The Wager

How does the Gospel deal with man's pride and his depression?

The Just Repent Method

A concept mis-understood?

If repentance meant a total, never again dealing with an area of sin, then we would never need to confess a sin twice. (see James 5:16, 1st Jn 1:8, 2:1, Matthew 6:12, Luke 17:4, Matthew 18:22)

Repentance is a grace of God to be asked for. “God give me a heart of repentance!”
(See Psalm 32, 51)

-The prayer of the believer!

“Lord, give me a heart of repentance.”

“Lord help me to desire your ways, for I know
they are good!”

“I believe but help my unbelief”

“help me from my sin...”

“who can deliver me from this body of death”

The prayer of the un-repentant

“Thank you God that I am not like other people...
I'm so glad I don't struggle with sexual sin like
them...look at what I do for you!

The Look of Repentance



Repentance is also a continual life-long act. It will grow continually. I believe a Christian on his death-bed will more bitterly repent than ever he did before. It is a thing to be done all your life long. Sinning and repenting—sinning and repenting, make up a Christian's life. Repenting and believing in Jesus—repenting and believing in Jesus, make up the consummation of his happiness. You must not expect that you will be perfect in "repentance" before you are saved. No Christian can be perfect.

3rd — **Help them to fight!**

It is important that you give the congregates tools to fight against desires that go astray!

The following is what we emphasize at the beginning, to focus a person on what will be needed!

It's really what we're all working
on daily...right?

Our Focus

- **The Glory of God** – Proper motivation (Why do you want to change?)
- **Drinking from Jesus** – Time in the Word of God (Daily)
- **Accountability** - Start meeting with them on a regular basis. Use software like Covenant Eyes to monitor internet use. (assuming that is a problem)
- **Confession** – Be an example of confession to the student as you continue to minister to them. Remember that they probably do not have a good example of it in their home.

Our vulnerability

Our Focus

- **Grace**— We need to always bathe one another in grace! We all stumble in many ways (James 3:2, Proverbs 24:16)
- **Repentance**— Develop a culture of repentance by showing them your own repentance and what it looks like.
- **Amputation** — Where have you had to cut off things that weigh you down?

Our compassion

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Spiritual = pneumatikos, belonging to the Divine Spirit
1st qualification - You are filled with the Holy Spirit!

The Warning for leaders – We too are susceptible to the same trespass! “Looking to thyself, lest though also be tempted.” Don't work with sexual issues if you are tempted in working with them. (gender specifics are good boundaries in counseling, but not always necessary in a gay culture)

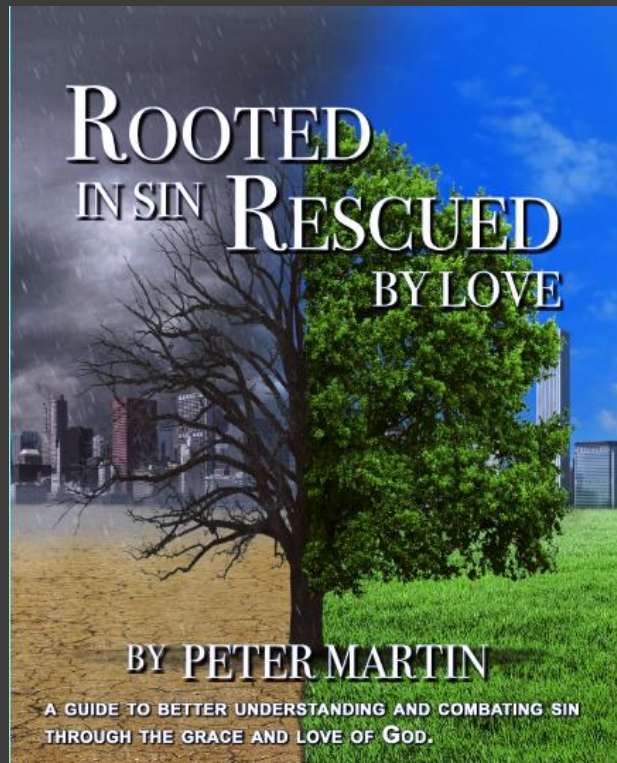
Remember – Help carry the burden of those hurting

A last note on the terms
Sexual Addiction

&

Demonizing Pornography

For Review



Recommended reading for...

Pastors
Women's group leader
Men's group leader
Home Fellowship's
Youth Leaders
Elders
Deacons

Good workbooks for discipleship!



1. This workbook is for working through sexual issues with someone in your fellowship.
2. Geared for men, but could be used for ladies too.
3. It is a close discipleship style workbook, or for small group accountability.