

0 (1s):

And today let's talk about sex. I don't even need an intro for this message. Do I? You guys are all engaged already, right online in person. Let's talk about sex today. That's what we are doing in our series update required. And I have to just clarify two things because somebody came up to me and I'm like, man, I'm so excited. You're gonna talk about gender. And I'm like, what are you talking about? Oh, the message on sex. Okay. No, no. We're talking about sex day. This isn't a message about gender and all that stuff. So stay tuned. We'll do that sometime in the future, but that's not what this message about. It's about sex and some somebody else, it was like, oh, so are we talking about like homosexuality will not directly in the specialist. We're not, I have given a message that speaks more specifically about that. And it was in our series where grace and truth collide a couple years ago.

0 (44s):

So that message was called sex lies in Jesus is not a good title. I like that title when I came up with it's sexualized in Jesus. So if you're interested, you can hear what Jesus says about sexuality. That's on the link. We have the link for that. And a lot of the resources that we're going to be talking about in this whole series on our update required page. So if you go to rise, denver.com/update required, you can find links to videos, to messages, to that message, to books, to articles. Even there's a conference on sexuality coming up at Denver seminary here at the end of month. So there's really cool links. So go to that page and you'll find stuff for the whole series, but you can look under particular this message to find some of those links. So, but, but I am going to say, cause I feel like I need to say it to preface, preface.

0 (1m 25s):

Everything else is that the Bible teaches one form of sexuality. That, that one thing is the way that God created and intended. And it goes from Genesis Genesis all the way to Jesus and beyond. And that one way is biblical sexuality that God gave man and woman. And that when man was just alone, it was not good. The only thing in all creation was not good for man to be alone. He created woman to be his compliment. And when they come together, it says at the end of Genesis chapter two, the first page of the Bible, the two became one flesh. So that's what marriage one man, one woman in a covenant of marriage for a lifetime. That's what God has created for us. And it's a beautiful thing created for all people. Not just Christians. That marriage is great. So if you're here and you're like, well, Matt, you know, I don't know if I agree with you on that.

0 (2m 7s):

That's fine. Okay. And I don't want you to tune me out. I don't want you to turn me off right now because this message is not about that per se. What it's about is how to deal with our world. That's very sexualized. So even if you disagree with me, you disagree with Jesus and the Bible that's that's okay. We love you. We want you to be here. This is going to be a very helpful message for you. Okay? So that's why I'm getting that out of the way, right up front. So we can talk about how we can deal with the world we live in, because I think we do need an update for this data. And I say that because whether you have a biblical viewpoint on marriage and sexuality, or you don't every single one of us, every single one of us knows that there are

certain things about sexuality that are out of bounds.

0 (2m 49s):

So from a biblical standpoint, you'd say, well, sex was created for marriage between one man and one woman. So anything outside of that as sin period, that's a lot of stuff, right? That's the way. So if you're running well, what about that, man? Yes, it's sin. Okay. That's what it is. So this is a covenant and here are these boundaries that God has created for. What's good. It's good in there. So those are the boundaries from a biblical perspective. Say you don't agree with the biblical spec. If you have a societal perspective, our society for at least for today, it'll probably change tomorrow has a come to a consensus. It seems like right now about what are the boundaries then? Yes, there are boundaries to sexuality in our society and it goes something like this. It says whatever happens between two consenting adults is okay.

0 (3m 29s):

Right. That's what you hear or not even two, I guess just consenting adults. Okay. You can throw out to whatever happens between consenting adults. See, that's something that changed over the last few years, right? Whatever happens between consenting adults, but there's two boundaries within that rule. Like there are rules for our society, consenting adults, consenting and adults. Okay. So we're saying that if there's not consent, it's not okay. It's inappropriate, it's bad. It's sin. Right. And if it's not adults, it's sin. Okay. And it's interesting because if you look throughout history in our country and in other countries today, those two rules don't always apply in every society. So I'm saying that to help you realize that society changes all the time. But if you're like, well, that's what I believe.

0 (4m 10s):

I think that's right. Okay. You still have some boundaries, consent and adults. Correct. So I say that because every single human being that I have ever met, maybe you're the exception, but I doubted every single human being I've ever met has some sexual desire. That's outside of the lines. They have thoughts in their head. Maybe you might be like, well, I'd never act on it yet, but you have thoughts in your head. And when those thoughts come into our head and it leads to desire in our hearts and then leads to action in our body, every single human being. And I've counseled a lot of people, everybody has thoughts that are outside of those boundaries, the biblical ones. And you might say, well, I've never had about those things. Well, that good. Okay.

0 (4m 51s):

But everybody has sexual desires because you get married. Then you think about someone outside of your spouse. Okay. That's outside the boundaries. Even for people that say, well, you know, two consenting adults, right? So everybody has sexual thoughts and desires that they have to say, that's not okay. That's not a good thought. Okay. Everybody has that. So how do we deal with it? So that's why I said, don't turn off this message for anybody. Okay. Nobody should turn off this message online. Okay? Whether you have a biblical perspective or societal perspective, we all know that there are things outside of bounds. So how do we stay

within the bounds of what is good? And what's right. And I say this because even if you're an atheist, you know that there are certain things that are right.

0 (5m 31s):

And certain things that are wrong when it comes to sexuality, there's a philosopher. And he wrote this article. He has some books on it, but this article was in the wall street journal. And he's an atheist along the Baton, I think is how you, I don't know how to pronounce it. He's a British philosopher. And he said, this atheist, he says, religions may be mocked for being prudish, but far from it in so far as religions warn us against sex, it is out of inactive awareness of the charms and powers of desire. He goes on. Even if we no longer believe in a deity, a degree of repression is seemingly necessary to our species and to the adequate functioning of a halfway ordered and loving society.

0 (6m 17s):

We need boundaries when it comes to sexuality. And he concludes by saying, because we have to go to work, commit ourselves to relationships, care for our children and explore our own minds. We cannot allow our sexual urges to express themselves without limit online or otherwise it would destroy us unbeliever, atheist. He says, if everybody gave into all their sexual urges, it would be a terrible society for you and everyone else. So that's why you don't even have to be a believer today. This is going to be a helpful message for you. It's going to be helpful message for everyone because we have to learn, how do I protect my path? There are paths. We go down in life.

0 (6m 57s):

How do I make sure my path is the good one? And I don't stray into something that is bad. That hurts other people that hurts myself. That leads to destruction. How do I protect my path? So simple, big idea today. You guys ready for this? Don't go there. I'm serious. Don't go there. Okay. You might be like, what? W we'll explain why this is important, but I'm saying don't go there and we'll see how that there's these paths that are laid out in front of us. And we have to choose. Don't go there. We have to choose the right path. And this is so important. We're gonna pick up this wisdom from Proverbs chapter five. So if you have Bibles, you can already go ahead and turn there. Or in the YouVersion Bible app, you can find our, a rice church, Denver event and look at the scriptures.

0 (7m 39s):

But what we see and the reason why we're doing this in our update required series is because yes, sexual temptation has always been around forever, but now it's in our pockets and our phones, right? It's everywhere. It's not like you have to go to a porn store. You have to go have an affair. Like it's there with you everywhere. There are images on TV and movies. You know, whether it's Netflix, whether it's a dating app, like temptation is everywhere now. And it's in your pocket. There's images in Instagram that you shouldn't see, you get a direct message from somebody. You, you see someone that you're like, oh yeah, I knew you back in high school. Whoa. You know? Okay. So all these things are around us all the time. I just want to talk

specifically for second about pornography.

0 (8m 19s):

Cause this is the one, the thing that's maybe the most in-depth over the last 10 years is how changed. So we have these smart phones in our pockets that today three out of the top 10 websites in the world are porn websites. It's like up there with Amazon Facebook, three of the top 10 websites are pornography. Over 40 million. Americans are regular visitors to porn sites. The porn industry's annual revenue, according to one report is more than the NFL NBA and MLB combined. And this is why it's important to us. 47% of families report. They self report that porn is a problem in their home. 55% of married men.

0 (8m 59s):

And twenty-five percent of married women say that they watch porn at least once a month for our kids. We said this last week, 11 is now the average age where a kid is first exposed to pornography average that by the age of 14, 94% of kids have seen pornography, 10% are addicted by the age of 13, nearly 40% of children have sent or received a sex by the age of 13. And is this, isn't just a men's issue. 33% of women aged 25 and under search report at least once a month. It's one out of three young women. And what it really does is it starts to shape relationships to girls, young girls report that they have to watch porn so that they know what the expectations are of boys expectations.

0 (9m 48s):

But as one commentator said, that's like learning how to drive by watching fast and the furious. Okay. Probably not a good idea. Okay. So, so we're going to talk a lot about what pornography does and why it's a bad idea because some of you already are thinking like, well, Matt, why does that even matter? But it does shape our lives and our relationships. And we're going to see that it has a lot of consequences porn and all this sexual sin, because we're saying anything that's out of bounds. What, whatever that thing is. And hopefully you will follow God's way, but we need help how to protect our path. So we're going to see in Proverbs chapter five, five, some great wisdom. So we're going to start in verse one of proper chapter five says my son pay attention to my wisdom.

0 (10m 32s):

Turn your ear to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion. And your lips may preserve knowledge, starts out by saying my son, the book of Proverbs in general, and this chapter in particular are written as a father to a son and we get to overhear it. So it really is for everybody. But it's a father saying, I love you son. I want the best path for your life. Maybe it's even saying I tried some other paths. Don't go down those. Or I've seen other people go down these paths. Don't do it. My son, I want to help you out. I got some wisdom for your life to help you so that you can have some discretion. And I say that, and I focus on that because this passage is for young men in particular, isn't it?

0 (11m 16s):

My son. So if you were a young man, this message is for you. Maybe more than anybody else listened to me online. Listen to me. If you know a young man, maybe share this message with somebody, right? It's for young men. Now I know that older men can benefit a lot from this, right? And women, no matter your age can benefit a lot from this. So we're all going to get that. But this message in particular is for young men to say, Hey, you gotta watch yourselves. You gotta be careful. And he goes on in verse three, he's teaching this wisdom, the father to the son. He says for the lips of the adulterous woman, drip, honey, and her speech is smoother than oil.

0 (11m 59s):

But in the end, she is bitter as gall sharp as a double-edged sword. So this is the imagery of the adulterous woman. It's actually something that kind of occurs again and again through Proverbs. And you might think, oh my gosh, she's talking about some woman that they know, no, this is I think a general imagery for the adulterous woman. And it really means any sexual desire. That's outside of bounds. So that's why it applies particularly to young men, but everybody can think of, okay, what's that sexual desire that I might have, or I've had in the past that say that that's not okay, that's wrong. If you have some temptation at all, towards those things, that's what you need to think of when he's talking about the adulterous woman.

0 (12m 40s):

And he says, what is it that the lips, drip, honey, she's attractive. She's sensual. Something that you want. I desire that sweetness. It looks so good. Her speech is smoother than oil. When she talks, I don't know. It just melt, right? She's attractive something that you desire. But in the end he says, she is bitter as gall. She's poisonous tastes good on the lips, you know, kill you going down sharp as a double-edged sword. The father is saying, look at the adulterous woman, his sexual temptation, that's out there. And he's saying, don't go there, right? Don't go there. You see her?

0 (13m 20s):

Don't go near her. Don't go there. She may seem attractive in that moment. You might go, oh my gosh, I got to have her need that, honey. Hey, it's bad. It's poison. It's going to hurt you. He's trying to warn her. It says in verse five, her feet go down to death. Her steps lead straight to the grave. She gives no thought to the way of life. Her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know what. So I told you, there's this imagery really? And it's throughout Proverbs in the Bible that there's two different paths we can choose in life that we can choose the path. Whether it's here at the adulterous woman, there's sexual temptation, there's sinful temptation.

0 (14m 1s):

And guess what? This is the path that most people choose. You look at the statistics in our society. Most people are choosing this. If you're a normal person in our society, you choose that. Even the things that our society says are off limits. People choose that even though it might destroy their lives, but there's another path that the father hears saying, son, choose this path. There's a better path. There's a better way. Jesus

said something similar. Didn't he, when he said, why it is the gate and broad is the path that leads to destruction and many choose it. Jesus said that. He says, but, but small is the gate. And narrow is the way to eternal life and few choose it.

0 (14m 44s):

So if you want the path of life, the path of something better, you have to choose that path and it's going to be difficult. So our message having that imagery of protect your path, don't go there. Don't go there. Even if everybody else is going there, don't go there because the father is saying, I want something better for you son. And I'm saying, as your pastor, I want something better for you. I love you. I care for you and I want the best for your life. And that's why I'm teaching you what God says in his word. So choose the better path and don't go there. Don't go there. And now he's going to explain why we shouldn't go there. Why we shouldn't go there? Verse eight. If we can look at verse eight, did you moved it?

0 (15m 25s):

Didn't you okay, there we go. I skipped this one in the first service, so she's got it. Okay, good. Just want it. Once you guys get this, we're going to come back to it, but it says keep to a path far from her. The adults from him keep to a path, choose the better path. Do not go near the door of her house. And in verse nine, here's the first consequence that he talks about. Lest you lose your honor to others and your dignity to one who is cruel. So he's starting out by talking about the personal consequences of sexual sin. It says you can choose it and you can choose this sexual sin. But when you do it, you're giving up your honor. And I say that because a lot of people look at Christianity and think, oh, they're always test telling women to cover up.

0 (16m 6s):

And it's all about women. No, no, no. The Bible say men, young men step it up. Choose honor. The way of honor is not to look at women and objectify them. It's not to look down on him. I mean, we have such a problem in our society. Don't we, we, young men mistreating women. It's messed up. We need to realize that self-control is the way to honor it's by saying no to our sexual urges. If you want to be a man that's respected, you have to say no and choose the right path to respect women, to not objectify them, to not mistreat them. We need to see that there are personal consequences. If we choose sexual sin, choose honor.

0 (16m 47s):

So that's the first thing you'll be dishonored. You'll be not a person of character, not a person of respect. If you choose sexual sin and to give into all your sexual urges, there's personal consequences. But the father goes on. He says in verse 10, lest strangers feast on your wealth, okay? Feast on your wealth. And your toil enrich the house of another. He says there are financial consequences to sexual sin. Okay? You don't even have to be a believer, right? You're like, oh yeah, there are financial consequences. In the case of adultery, if you choose adultery and it ends up in a divorce, you're going to lose half your assets, right?

0 (17m 28s):

You might have to pay child support. I remember talking with a guy who had been through two divorces, had several kids and he's like, I can barely afford to live anymore because all my paycheck has gone to child support. I'm like, yeah, there are financial consequences to sexual sin. I don't know if you guys saw this, but one of the worst financial decisions ever was made a couple of years ago. He actually, in the last couple years you see it. There was a CEO that made a decision that cost him \$37 billion. That's billion with a B. Do you know what I'm talking about? Bezos Jeff Bezos. Okay. People Revere him. He's going to have an autobiography about how he's one of the greatest businessman ever. One of the worst business decisions and financial decisions in human history was made recently plus 37 billion.

0 (18m 13s):

Do you know how he did it? He had an affair that led to a divorce and his wife took a bunch \$37 billion worth. Now, if a CEO made that decision for his company, he would be canned in an instant, right. Would be considered one of the worst CEOs of human history. Yet, for some reason in his personal life, people don't even just ignore it and pretend like it didn't happen. I mean, some people like the tablet, stuff of it. Right. But, but Bezos, one of the worst financial decisions in human history was made because he was thinking not with his brain because he couldn't keep it in his pants. There are financial consequences to sexual sin, financial consequences. And I want to say this because some people stopped right there and say, well, that's why I'm not going to get married.

0 (18m 55s):

So I don't have to get a divorce. But here's the reality. If you live together with someone, you will have to get divorced. If you break up, even if you're not married there just as many financial consequences, okay, you got us. Who's going to get the dog. Right. You can't split the dog in half. Right? You still have to figure out who's going to have who's friends. Right? That's what happens if you live together before marriage or without a marriage. And you're like, oh, I'll never get married. I've talked to you. I'll never get married. There's still going to have financial consequences. There are financial consequences to sexual sin. So let strangers face on your wealth. Verse 11, get this. It's not just financial. He says there's emotional and relational consequences too. At the end of your life, verse 11 says you will groan when your flesh and body are spent, you'll grown.

0 (19m 39s):

Okay. You can just imagine. Why is this person groaning? Because they're alone. They're sad. They're angry. They're, they're older. And they're by themselves because of the consequences of sexual sin, whether there was the divorce and they split up the friends who's who's friend, right? The family you're strange from not only your ex-spouse, you're a strange from kids, perhaps old bitter and alone. He's saying this is one of the natural consequences for sexual sin. I remember counseling a guy who came to me, love with another woman other than his wife, can I leave her? I'm like, well, if you do, this is what's going to happen.

0 (20m 19s):

You're going to be alone. You're going to not be able to see your kids very much. You're gonna have to pay child support. So all your money's going to be gone. Right. And you're gonna be a stranger kids. Aren't gonna like you, your spouse ex spouse definitely is gonna like your family gonna think you're bad. Right? And he's like, oh, I hadn't thought of it. Right? Because you don't think with your head when, when you're in lust, it's not love. You don't think with your head, do you, and it leads to all these detrimental consequences to your life. I mean, Jeff Bezos, if he was thinking straight, wouldn't be like, I think I want to give away \$30 billion today. Nobody thinks that way. Right? It's foolish. But that's what sexual sin leads us to. And I think that's why.

0 (20m 60s):

And I want to jump down to verse 20. Now, what we see is that sexual sin starting in our mind has psychological consequences, has psychological consequences. The father says, why my son be intoxicated with another man's wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman? I underline that word intoxicated because it's using the language of getting drunk of, of having something that it seems good, but it controls your mind, right? It changes your mind being in lust. They say, when people are, you know, we call it in love that early phase, you need to sleep less changes your psychological makeup. You think more it's, it's almost like a drug. And a lot of the psychological studies done over the last 10, 20 years are finding that, that this idea of being in lust with someone it's like being on a drug because there, you know, is arousal.

0 (21m 51s):

And then there's the release of dopamine in your brain when there's sexual encounters. Okay. Which can be an incredibly great thing. If it's a spouse that you want to be addicted to for the rest of your life, it's an incredibly bad thing. When it's some, one or some thing that's out of balance, your brain is getting addicted to those things. They're saying neural pathways are getting developed. And this is why pornography is, it is a dangerous thing. People don't even realize this, but when you, when you look at pornography and you have that release at the release of dopamine, that whatever you're viewing, when you're looking at you become addicted to that thing eventually, and it happens pretty quickly. It's very similar to drug use.

0 (22m 31s):

You get addicted to it. And the problem is, is that people do that and they get addicted to someone other than their spouse. And then for men, they want something more and more novel. The more they look at it. So they have to keep chasing things and into weirder and stranger and more bizarre things. This leads to like racist, sexual desires. This leads to things that are objects. And you, you like, how could you be interested in at all? Here's one of the scariest things about pornography in our day and age, right now that one study found that 88.2% of sex scenes found on the internet contain aggression or violence. There's a lot of men and women who are becoming addicted to that in their sexual desire.

0 (23m 13s):

And because of that, we are reaping the benefits of in our society negatively that it has led to much more violence. And it leads people who are viewing that type of pornography into sexual offenses. And almost always the victim of this are women or women. There are psychological consequences to even porn use to all sexual sin. It's an intoxicating thing. It controls your brain and you're doing things that you never would have done. Nobody wakes up and says, you know what? I, to have an affair with him thinking about it for a while, I want to do no, no you think I would never do that. You swear before God, and these witnesses will never do it. And then all of a sudden you see that person, there's an emotional traction, there's a physical touch.

0 (23m 58s):

And then all of a sudden your marriage is over. There's psychological consequences to sexual sin, but even more so. So all of this, I think, applies to everybody. But this next section is going to be applied to people who, who do believe what the Bible says, that there are spiritual consequences to sin verse 22 and 23. I want you to see the end of this passage here. Father says the evil deeds, the sin of the wicked and snare them. It's a trap. The cords of their sins hold them fast. For lack of discipline, they will die. Let us stray by their own great folly. There are spiritual consequences to sexual sin and it says death here.

0 (24m 43s):

It's not talking about physical death because we're all going to physically die, right? It's talking about spiritual death. It's talking about a death apart from God that you have, instead of choosing the path, God has laid out for us. That's beautiful and amazing. And the best path you could ever choose. That's filled with joy. You're choosing another path and God just lets us pick our path. Isn't that crazy that he's given us a freewill to do that. And people choose that path all the way to spiritual death and being apart from God forever because the people are choosing it for their lifetime. Why would they want to spend eternity with God and heaven and say, I chose a different path. God just lets them go on their path to spiritual death. Apart from God forever for all, have sinned and fall short of the glory for the wages of sin.

0 (25m 24s):

It says in Roman is death. Sexual sin has spiritual consequences. So what do we do about it? What do we do about it? Well, this passage has a couple of different answers that we need to learn to grow and to apply it to our digital age that we're in right now. And the first one was back in verse eight. Did you guys notice this keep to a path far from her? The adulterous woman do not go near the door of her house. Now this is interesting here because we're talking about wisdom here. The Bible says, okay, adultery is the sin. Having an affair is the sin.

0 (26m 4s):

But here it's saying wisdom. It's not saying a sin or not sin. It's saying, okay, look at it. It's a sin. Is it a sin to walk on the path to the adulterous woman's house? No. Is it a sin to knock on her door? No. Is it even a sin to talk to her? No. It's only a sin. When your mind leads you into the emotional action into the physical action

of adultery, but what the father is saying, Hey son, you think you might be really strong, but as soon as you get to the allure of those honey lips, you're done, you're dead. Right? So sons step back from there. There's there's the door don't go near the door. Don't even go near the path, right? It's not because it's sin, but because it leads to sin.

0 (26m 46s):

So I want to be clear about that. What we're talking about today is how can we protect our path in our digital world? Because it used to be, you'd have to go to the party late at night and have too many drinks. It used to be that you had to, you know, go physically to the shop, to buy pornography. But now it's on our phone. So how can we protect our path? And I say this too, I say this too, because you will encounter sexual temptation in your life. Everyone. Everyone does, even if you're doing a hundred things, right? And you're, you're like, I'm great. I'm going on? My path, got my head down. You're still gonna encounter sexual temptation, but we should limit it as much as possible. Right? You guys with me on this, there will be sexual temptation. Sometimes hit you in the face, comes in a message.

0 (27m 28s):

You see the person that you've been friends with Facebook on years, but then they go through a divorce and they're posting some stuff and you're like, whoa. Right? You know what I'm talking about? It will be all of a sudden when your marriage is down the road and you get that Facebook message from someone you haven't thought about since high school, that's how sexual sin happens. So there is that temptation out there it's going to happen, but we need to do whatever we can to protect our path way back at the start before we ever go near the adulterous woman's house. So in a physical world, that made sense, the father is saying, Hey, the adulterous woman, that temptation don't go anywhere near her house. Right? Don't even go down the road. Cause once you get there, it's harder and harder and harder to say no, the closer you get. So start back there, protect your path. So in the digital world, what does that mean?

0 (28m 9s):

I want to give you guys a few suggestions. And once again, these are just possible applications that you could take from this. And I hope that God and his holy spirit will lead you to which ones that you need to do. And we're not saying any of these are sin or not. So if you don't do them like you're going to help. No, I'm just saying these are the ways to protect your path from the sexual sin. So here's a few things maybe you need to get rid of your smartphone, right? It's the simplest. And some people are like, I couldn't do that. Get rid of smartphone, get a dumb phone. There's one thing you could do maybe in your house, especially when you're talking about with your kids and your spouse there, just to have one computer that you guys can use in a common area. Doesn't everybody need their devices in their bedroom. No, that's a bad idea. Just have one in the open room that everyone can see what's going on all the time.

0 (28m 54s):

Here's something you can do is with filters, our technology. Yes. It may lead into a lot of bad sin, but our

technology is pretty incredible too. There are incredible filters out there. There are software like covenant eyes, for example, that can protect you. It can filter out different things and it can alert somebody else of your choosing. When you're looking at something you're not supposed to, they're also filters. You can get on your router. Okay. There are filters now for the full whole family. I just saw one of these that will limit what sites you can go to. It will limit when you can be on it. So at night, all of a sudden like the Internet's out, right? Or, you know, or it will say, you know, the kids can only go on for an hour or two. Like you, you can do all that. Pre-programmed you don't even have to think about it daily.

0 (29m 35s):

You're filtering out those things. So if you're interested in any of those things, there's a step-by-step guide that I have in the update required on our website. And it's the articles called the Pornfree family. So there's a step-by-step guide how to protect your family. Maybe you need to start eliminating some subscriptions just because it's called prestige TV. Doesn't mean it's not porn. Okay? Right. There are some things that we don't need to watch. You could just say, Hey, we're not going to watch Mia. We're not going to watch radar. We're not going to get video games that are rated him. Those are just off limits. There's no need. So what if you can't talk about the latest HBO drama with your friends, it's going to be okay. If you're real friends, you'll find something else to talk about.

0 (30m 16s):

Honestly, there are ways even in Netflix and I'm sure some other subscriptions that you could say, I don't even want to see anything above rated whatever, and you won't even see it. You won't even be tempted to watch it, let alone tempted to sin because you're watching something. You shouldn't some other suggestions of what you can do. Perhaps you need to start unfollowing some people. Okay. Just because they're your friend from high school doesn't mean you still need to see their racy photos. Okay? Maybe you need to get rid of some social accounts. You're like, okay, this account is fine. But man, these images and Instagram are just leading me astray. Okay. Just get rid of it. You don't need it maybe. And this is something that I don't understand anything about.

0 (30m 59s):

I don't know much about it, but maybe don't use that dating app. Which one is it? I don't know. But you do. Okay. I don't know what that app is, but you know, there are some apps that lead to a lifelong marriage, covenant and there are some that lead to a one hour hookup. So don't use that app. You don't need to use the other ones. Okay. I don't even know Tinder and match. They're both going to lead to a fire. One's good. And one's been riding. Okay. Pick the one. That's good. Right? And these are just some digital things that I'm encouraging you to do to update required. There's also just the lifelong physical things. Okay. Don't go to that. Person's house. Don't go to that party. Don't hang out. That person don't have that extra drink.

0 (31m 40s):

We know that there are some things we need to take. The advice of all like the medical commercials were

like stub heartburn before it still hurts. Right? Right. I mean, before you take the medicine before, okay. That's that's like what? These things are, protect your path before you even get near it. Because the closer and closer you get the harder and harder it is to say no. And then your life starts on Ravel and you see all these consequences happening in your life. So protect your path as much as we can choose the path of Jesus don't even go there. So that's the first application is really like protect your path digitally. The second one is that God has given us an amazing relationship where sex can and should be enjoyed.

0 (32m 23s):

Look at this in verse 20, I'm sorry. Verse 18. We can jump down to verse 18. It says, may your fountain be blessed and may rejoice in the wife of your youth, a loving DOE, a graceful deer. May her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be

1 (32m 40s):

With her love CD intoxication of lust and sex is a very good thing. God created when God created man and woman. When he created human beings, he created us to find pleasure in sex. Isn't that interesting. Other creatures on our planet don't have pleasure in sex. Human beings. Do God created us for that pleasure. He created us to be intoxicated with our spouses. So God has created this beautiful relationship for that. And there's some amazing benefits to this. This is one cool thing. Okay. I saw this statistic and it was saying that like, if you have seven or more sexual partners before your marriage, you have like a 50 plus percent chance of divorce.

1 (33m 22s):

People say that's 50% for everybody. But if you choose one sexual partner for your life, the way of God, you have a three to 4% chance of a divorce. Don't talk about that. Do they? Right? So, so God has given a great path that is beautiful and to enjoy sex and, and people that have sex in marriage have twice as much sex. They enjoy it more. They're happier. God has given us something incredible. So we can choose that instead of sexual sin. But some of you were like, well, Matt, I'm single, or my sexuality isn't fit with what you're talking about. Okay? And I know that you have a challenging path, but this is what God has said in his word. Paul says in first Corinthians, he says now to the unmarried and the widows, I say it is good for them to stay unmarried as I do.

1 (34m 6s):

But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry for, it is better to marry than to burn with passion. There's always the option of marriage. But for the single people, I want to say this. Our society tells you the worst thing in the world is for you to be a 40 year old Virgin. But we worship a guy who was 33 years old, never had sex, never was married. And he died a 33 year old Virgin. And he was the most perfect man that ever lived, lived the fullest life and had the most joy ever. The path of singleness is a great and beautiful thing that God has given us. I have different messages on that for another day, but whether you're single or married, we all encounter sexual sin and desires in our life, right?

1 (34m 49s):

And I'm giving you this whole message to help you, to protect your path, to teach you. I love you and want the best for you. I feel like this father talking to the son to all of you online and in person that I want the best life for you to protect your bath. Don't go there. Don't go there. But some of you are like mad. I already went there. I already went there. It's too late. Am I just written off? If my life just going to be ruined? Well, here's the great thing about our faith is that when Jesus did cam to our world, when he lived a perfect life, that he never even sin in lust in his mind, let alone an actual perfect man. He was a friend of sinners.

1 (35m 30s):

So they called him in front of sexual sinners. He hung out with the prostitutes, the people who were choosing sex, sexual sin as, as a lifestyle, as well as the work, Jesus loved them and hung out with them. When there was the woman at the well who had already had five husbands and was now living with a six dude sexual sin, right? Jesus looked her in the eye. He talked with her when nobody else would, he loved her. And he offered her, the living water of eternal life. When a woman was caught in the middle of adultery, I don't want to, if you know, don't imagine that scene right now. They bring her in the middle of the temple, throw her down. And they asked Jesus who should throw the first stone to execute her? Cause she's broken the law of God.

1 (36m 10s):

Jesus said, let the one who is without sin cast the first stone until every one of those men walked away because they had all sin. Jesus who was perfect and could have executed her. What did he say? He said, your sins are forgiven. Go and sin. No more. He even went up to the cross, shedding his own blood to purchase our forgiveness and grace for sexual sinners like us. He loves sexual centers. The whole message of the gospel is centers. Whatever your sin past, present, and future, no matter how bad it is and how awful it is, come to Jesus. And there is grace and forgiveness and not just one time, but forever and ever for past present and future sin.

1 (36m 55s):

So the message I want to leave with you. If you're saying I've chosen the wrong path. And then my pastor and my present is to repent and restart in Jesus. There's always opportunity for forgiveness. Your sins are forgiven, repent, and restart today. Repentant restart again tomorrow when you fall again, repenting restart. Whenever it is. And Jesus is always ready with open arms to forgive you and give you grace. Jesus is a friend to sexual centers. Isn't that such good news? It's so good news, right? That we can repent and restart. And I want to encourage you because some of you need to repent and restart today. I know some of you are saying, Hey, I've got to do this thing. God is leading me. I've got to do this thing to protect my path or to perfect the path of my family.

1 (37m 35s):

Good do it. Don't go there. Don't go there. But for, I think a lot of us need to come here today and receive forgiveness, a fresh from Jesus Christ, repent and restorative. And guess what? There's a new start today and every day. So we're going to sing a song here. The band is going to lead us in a song called come to the alter where we talk about the father's arms being. Open-minded the forgiveness that was bought with the blood of Jesus Christ is here for you today. And I want to give you guys an opportunity as we sing the song to confess your sins to God, to repent and receive from him a restart today. And I'm going to be in the back during the song. If you want prayer during the song, I'm going to be back there. So he's going to be up there and we'd love to pray with you and encourage you.

1 (38m 17s):

So would you guys please pray with Lord God, we're a bunch of sinners. We have sinful fonts and attitudes then in our hearts and in our minds and in our actions, every single one of us has sinned. And Lord God, with that in mind, we come to you. The only sinless perfect spotless lamb, who was shed, who had his bloodshed purchase for us, the forgiveness of our sins. So help us today. Repent receive your grace and forgiveness and restart, or God, I pray that you give the strength that you give the courage to the men, especially, but to the women, to everyone here, that they would be able to follow you on the path.

1 (38m 57s):

That's right. That leads to life. That when they go down that other path, that they would be able to repent quickly and restart again on the path of life. Lord, God, most of all, we are so great. Grateful for the forgiveness and grace. We have every single day of our lives. Now with heads bowed, still an eyes closed. There is maybe someone in here that has never put your faith in Jesus Christ. Guess what? Jesus is good. He loves you in the worst of your sins and he is offering you today, forgiveness and eternal life forever. So I want to give you an opportunity right now to say a prayer, to repeat after me and you accept his gift of forgiveness to declare Jesus, your Lord and savior, and to restart in your life today.

1 (39m 43s):

So if you're already a believer, would you say this prayer out loud to give courage to someone here who needs to say it for the first time? Would you please now repeat this prayer after me, dear God, I'm a sinner. I repent. I need a restart. Save me. Forgive me. I accept your gift of eternal life in faith. I declare Jesus is Lord. Fill me with your spirit. Help me to follow you and grow to be like you.

1 (40m 23s):

Now with eyes still closed. Nobody's looking around. If you said that prayer for the first time, if Jesus is your Lord and savior today for the first time, would you please slip your hand in the air? Love to just be encouraged you on that. Slip your hand in the air. Nobody's looking. We just want to be able to pray for you, encourage you. If you're online, go to [rise.denver.com/follow](https://rise.denver.com/follow) fill out that form so I can encourage you on this next journey. Lord God, I pray for all of us. We come right now to the alter. We come now to Jesus Christ who died on the cross to forgive us of our sins. And we declare that we are sinners. We repent today. So

give us that new restart so we can walk in the path of life forever and ever Jesus name.

1 (41m 3s):

Amen.