



Sinking Your Battleship

Part IV of IV: Self

Justin Worden – May 27, 2009
 Tupos SM - Wednesday Night Live

Romans 8:38-39 = "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord". (NIV)

I. Discovering The Battleship of Self

a. What Do You Think You're Worth?

- i. Self-worth = confidence, self-respect, self-esteem
- ii. Down on yourself? Think you're not worth anything?

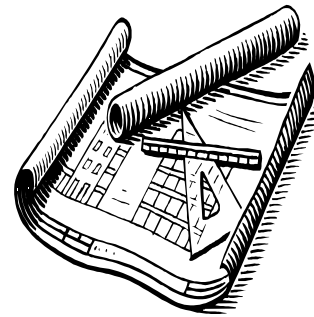
b. What Are You Worth to God?

- i. Psalm 8:3-4 = "What is man that You remember him, the son of man that You look after him? You made him little less than God and crowned him with glory and honor." (HCSB)
- ii. Nothing can separate You from His true love!!!

- 1. Romans 8:38-39
- 2. "If God, the uncreated One, is for us, and no created thing can separate us, then our security in Him is absolute" (Compact Bible Comm, pg. 796).

iii. 4 awesome things God says about you:

- 1. "You Are My Child" ("But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God" = John 1:12, NLT).
- 2. "You Are My Friend" ("I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in



his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me" = John 15:15, NLT).

- 3. "I Will Always Love You" ("For I am convinced that... [nothing] ...will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" = Rom 8:38-39, NIV).
- 4. "I Have A Plan For Your Life" ("For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me" (Jeremiah 29:11-13, NLT).

iv. Do you get it!? = you *REALLY* matter to God!

c. What Are You Worth To Others?

- i. Does it really matter? (If you are worth so much to God, why need to focus on what others think?)
- ii. Living life is not about impressing other people

- 1. 1 Sam 16:7 = "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature... for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (NASB)

iii. Focus on giving your whole heart to God, and how others see God in you will follow that!

d. SELF: The Truth About You!

- i. You were created perfect (by God & for God)
 - 1. "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them... God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:27 & 31, NASB).
- ii. You were created wonderful
 - 1. "I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well" (Psalm 139:14, NASB).
- iii. You are cared about constantly (all the time!)
 - 1. "How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!" (Psalm 139:17-18, NLT)

II. Retaliating Against The Battleship of Self

a. Do Not Abandon Ship!

- i. Now is the time (more than ever) to hold fast!
 - 1. Stay onboard = connected to church



2. If you do... you'll *conquer* these battleships
- ii. Senior class motto = "Veni, Vidi, Vici" (I came, I saw, I conquered): **Romans 8:37-39** = "**In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us**" (v.37, NIV).
- iii. Stats to think about (your generation):
 1. **90%** believe they can have a good relationship with God without being involved in church
 2. **63%** agreed that is a church presented truth to them in an understandable way that relates to their lives now, they would attend
 3. **80%** of students attend church in high school
 4. **52%** attend church during freshman year of college
 5. **29%** attend church in their junior year of college
- iv. "Your call is to belong... not just to attend, but to serve. You don't go to church, you are the church" (Shaun Blakeney)
- v. What are you looking for in a church?
 1. "Cruise Ship vs. Battleship" (Igniter, Vol. 6)

III. Sinking The Battleship of Self

a. All U Need 2 Know = God Is Aware!

"The LORD said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey...'" (**Exodus 3:7-8a, NIV**)

God sees. God hears. God is aware. God has come to rescue you.

The Israelites were slaves under the oppression of extremely unfair taskmasters. When it seemed like the load was unbearable, the weight was doubled. When the pressure of meeting the quotas was already too intense, deadlines were shortened and production demands were significantly increased. The Israelite slaves were dropping under the desert sun. Compassion: no where to be found.

God saw. God heard. God was aware. God came to rescue them.

What enslaves you? An addiction to drugs, alcohol, nicotine, gambling or some other taskmaster? Maybe you are chained to an inordinate need to please people... Maybe your past haunts you. Maybe the present has no hope. Maybe the future looks bleak at best.

God sees. God hears. God is aware. God has sent His Son to save you. Because He loves you without condition, He has sent the Deliverer Jesus to transfer you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (**Directions devotional, December 26th; John Wagner**)

Related music = "I've Always Loved You" (*Time* by Third Day, 1999)

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Tupos Student Ministries Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 (Part 4 of 4)

Lesson Theme: Self-Esteem / Self-Worth

Lesson Objective: Finishing our series, this week we will discuss how loved we are by our Father and how much self-worth we can find in Jesus Christ. He has a great plan for our lives (especially for our seniors who are graduating this coming weekend).

Lesson Text: **Romans 8:38-39** = "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord". (NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. Reality check = Do you really care what God thinks of you more than you care what everyone else thinks of you?
2. Which phrase meant the most to you tonight? ("You are my child", "You are my friend", "I will always love you", or "I have a plan for your life") Why did it mean so much?

Prayer Time: Take special time to pray for those of our students who will be graduating in a couple days and seeking God for their futures!



Sinking Your Battleship

Part III of IV: Sexuality

Justin Worden – May 20, 2009
 Tupos SM - Wednesday Night Live

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 = "Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." (NLT)

IV. What's Wrong With Sex?

a. Nothing's Wrong With The Design

- i. God created sex & everything God creates is beautiful (including all His children = you)
- ii. God created it for a purpose (talk about that later)
- iii. There's nothing wrong but everything's wrong...

b. Everything's Wrong With What It's Become

- i. How could something God created as perfect become so imperfect or wrong??
- ii. What the world has made it is wrong!
 1. "Whenever you want it, however you want it, and with however you want it with."
- iii. Sex defined = not just intercourse (your sexuality is physical, emotional, and spiritual)
 1. Physical (sexuality) includes = holding hands, kissing, petting, touching, oral sex: all of it is SEX according to God!

c. Sex = Embarrassing?

- i. Why it's embarrassing to talk about...
 1. The world's made it ugly (a bad thing)

2. "Sex" has been high jacked from God and twisted... we've done immoral things with it!
- ii. Don't let it embarrass you... it's a beautiful thing.

V. The 411 On Immorality

a. What Is Morality?

- i. Morality = honesty, integrity, principles, morals
- ii. "Morality means a code of conduct which is held... in matters of right and wrong" (Wikipedia.org)
- iii. If we have "morals" according to God, then we need to take Him at His Word (believe the Bible)

b. Flee Immorality!

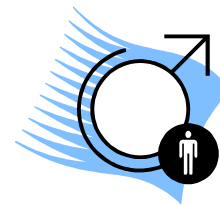
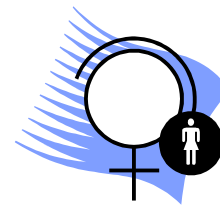
- i. "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body." (v.18, NASB)
- ii. Flee = powerful action word → get away fast!!

c. It's Our "Flesh" Again!

- i. Our sinful nature wants to steal sex from God
 1. (use it for yourself, how you want it)
- ii. But... "Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception." (Ephesians 4:22, NLT)
- iii. This "flesh" → Galatians 5:19 = "It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness..." (Message)
- iv. What forms does our "flesh" take? (immorality)

d. Forms of Immorality:

- i. Homosexuality (Decision, not a lifestyle = "Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin...or practice homosexuality..." [1 Cor 6:9])
- ii. Sodomy (That's what destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, who were synonymous with homosexuality & divine judgment - Gen 18 and 19)
- iii. Premarital Relations (cohabitation / sex) = Sol. 2:7 = "Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires" [before its time].
- iv. Pornography (lusting in your mind) = "But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." (Matt. 5:28-29, NLT)



- v. **Immodesty** ("sexy" defined by the world) = "...In humility before God, not primping before a mirror or chasing the latest fashions but doing something beautiful for God and becoming beautiful doing it." (1 Tim. 2:9-10, Message)

VI. The Best Sex Ever

a. Best Way = God's Way

- i. Sex the right way is simply sex God's way (purity)
 1. In a marriage with one partner, treating it as a privilege & allowing God to be a part
- ii. Remember = Your body is the Lord's (1 Cor. 6:19)
 1. You were purchased = "Bought at a price" (v.20) alludes to someone purchasing a slave at a slave auction. With His death Jesus Christ paid the cost to redeem us from our slavery (Eph. 1:7, 1 Pet. 1:18,19)" (Compact Bible Comm, pg. 808).



b. The Theology of Sex

- i. 1 Thess. 5:23 = "May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete..." (NASB)

"While we may think of sex as a pretty 'earthy' subject, Paul is saying that what happens on earth is not the whole story. The holy, divine (God) in heaven is intimately concerned with the issue of how you handle your sexuality and what you do with your body. Sex is a holy subject, since God is involved in it, and His presence sanctifies it. So, Paul doesn't simply argue, 'Immorality isn't nice. You ought not do it.' Instead, he says, 'This thing is bigger than you and your (partner). It has theological implications.' Paul's argument in 1 Corinthians 6 is that sexual purity is demanded because of God the Father (vv.12-14), it's expected because of God the Son (vv.15-16), and it's possible because of God the Spirit (vv.17-19)." (**Our Love devotional, March 23rd**)

- ii. Now there's a powerful reason to strive for purity and faithfulness in this area, for God and for your future spouse/children!

c. Sinking This Battleship (The 3 Rs)

- i. Recognizing = "Run from sexual sin!" (v.18)
- ii. Recouping = "Realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit" (v.19)
- iii. Retaliating = "honor God with your body" (v.20)

Related music = "Give Us Clean Hands" (*Worship Together Live 2001*, Chris Tomlin)

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Tupos Student Ministries

Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 (Part 3 of 4)

Lesson Theme: Sexuality / Physical Purity

Lesson Objective: Continuing in our series, this week we'll be discussing purity, especially sexual purity! We'll take an important look at immorality and what it means to be the "temple of the Holy Spirit".

Lesson Text: **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** = "Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." (NLT)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think it's so important to God that you run from sexual sin?
2. How would you define "immortality"?
3. What are some ways you can stay far away from immorality?

Prayer Time: Please continue to pray for this new series. Ask God to help you to overcome the struggles in your life (especially immorality).



Sinking Your Battleship

Part II of IV: Substances

Justin Worden – May 13, 2009
Tupos SM - Wednesday Night Live

Psalm 40:1-3 = "I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD." (NLT)

VII. Sinking Substances?

a. Are Substances Sinking You?

- i. Substances = **outside influences** (that which wants to influence/control your mind)
- ii. Remember = The core of this battle = your mind!
- iii. "The only way to stand against the kind of evil beings, which we wrestle, is to submit ourselves continually to the mind of God and resist any being, which hates God. The mind of Christ is what we need for this battle and it is the mind we have been given by grace." (Directions devotional, March 2nd)
- iv. If there is a foreign "substance" in you at any time, you are under control of something besides Christ!
- v. Substances that plague your generation: **Beer, wine, drugs, steroids, dipping tobacco, smoking cigarettes**
- vi. They lead to the "pit of despair" (Ps. 40:2)

b. Sink Your Ship of "Substances"!

- i. It is time to overcome, not be overcome!
- ii. Throw off your old "sinful nature" (**call to holiness**)
 1. Ephesians 4:22 = "throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted..." (NLT)



2. This battleship is caused by our "flesh" (selfishness / sinful nature)

Galatians 5:16-21a = "It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on." (Message)

VIII. Under The Influence Remix

a. Substance Abstinence

- i. Abstinence = **self-restraint or self-denial, no more!**
- ii. Not just "don't be under the influence"... totally stay away!
- iii. It is a **call to holiness** to abstain from substances

b. To Abstain Completely...

- i. Does the Bible really teach to not drink/dip/smoke/do drugs at all? [I believe it does, here's why:]

c. The Bible vs. Substances



It's Not Your Body to Choose

- Your Body? (No!) = "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NLT)

It Is Illegal For You

- FL Drinking Age = 21 / FL Tobacco Age = 18 (under age... illegal!)
- We're called to obey the laws of the land = "Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God" (Romans 13:1, NLT)

What Alcohol Produces Is No Good

- "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has conflicts? Who has complaints? Who has wounds for no reason? Who has red eyes? Those who linger over wine, those who go looking for mixed wine. Don't gaze at wine when it is red, when it gleams in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper." (Prov 23:29-32, HCSB)
 - "The world loves to paint a picture of what alcohol produces. We see the glamour of friends hanging out in a place where everybody knows your name. Everybody loves everybody, and there's nothing better than having that place to go to. The reality of what alcohol produces is much different"

It Is a Downward Spiral

- The downward spiral of the drinker - Prov 23:33-35 = "Your eyes will see strange things, and you will say absurd things. You'll be like someone sleeping out at sea or lying down on the top of a ship's mast. "They struck me, but I feel no pain! They beat me, but I didn't know it! When will I wake up? I'll look for another [drink]." (HCSB)
 - "Solomon gives a great picture of what happens to someone who is not willing to face the dangers of alcohol usage."

Drugs Can Only End In Destruction

- Drugs (& other substances) never produces good things in the long run
 - It will only destroy marriages/families/friends/lives
 - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy" (Jn 10:10, NASB)
 - If we know this is one way the "thief" destroys... why do we even bring it into our homes/lives?

This Biblical Church Forbids It

- As a member / family of New Hope Baptist Church you are called to abide by our Church Covenant which reads: "to abstain from the sale of and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and the spread of pornography..." (Constitution of NHBC, Article VI: Church Covenant)

Do The Best For "Others" Who Are Watching

- "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Don't give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God. I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved." (1 Corinthians 10:31-33, NLT)
 - The world is watching... how are you influencing them?
 - Is your drinking / dipping / etc (any amount) glorifying God?

IX. The 3 R's of Sinking This Battleship



a. Recognizing

- i. See the battleships (the stuff that is not glorifying to God & that influences you) and watch out for them!

b. Recouping

- i. When you get caught up... get out!
- ii. Seek God's forgiveness = "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn 1:9, NIV)

c. Retaliating (how to fight back!)

- i. Get right and stay right (stay clear of substances!!)
- ii. Restoration is required! (*help a brotha out!*)

Galatians 6:1-2 = "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (NIV)

"There is a cliché that says, 'The Christian army is the only army that shoots its own wounded.' Sadly, like most clichés, there is a core of truth there. Christian who fall into sin are too often left to die of neglect or excoriated for their failure..." (Directions devotional, April 25th)

1. Watch out for each other, just like yourself
- iii. Reward = people will be amazed at God!
 1. Psalm 40:3 = "Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD." (NLT)

Related music = "Warrior" (*In The Company of Angels* by Caedmon's Call, 2001)

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Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 (Part 2 of 4)

Lesson Theme: Overcoming Temptations

Lesson Objective: Continuing in our series, this week we will discuss "substances" and how to overcome the temptations of drugs, alcohol, and peer pressure. The Lord hears our cry!

Lesson Text: **Psalm 40:1-3** = "I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along..." (vv.1-2, NLT)

Discussion Questions:

3. Do you or have you ever struggled with "substances"?
4. Have you seen the controlling effects of substances in the lives of those around you? (Friends? Family? Yourself?)
5. Where is the hope found in sinking this battleship?

Prayer Time: Pray for your friends/family who are struggling with addictions and who need the Lord to lift them out of the "pit".



Sinking Your Battleship

Part I of IV: Prep For Battle

Justin Worden – May 6, 2009
Tupos SM - Wednesday Night Live

Intro Video = "Wall of Me" (9:25)

Ephesians 6:12 = "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places". (NLT)

X. Understanding This Battle

a. Spiritual Warfare 101

- i. What is spiritual warfare? Defined in Eph. 6:12...
 1. Not your normal fist fight
 2. It's a fight against the unseen (darkness)
- ii. To fight it, we need the right weapons:
 1. "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil." (Ephesians 6:10-11, NLT)
- iii. With these weapons comes a promise! (from video)
 1. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 = "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." (NIV)



b. Knowing Our Enemies

"The center and source of what opposes and offends our spiritual life is centered in and coming from the minds of beings whose hatred for God and His Son has caused them to

notice God's life in us. These anti-God beings notice us because God has taken up residence in the center of our hearts by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. They hate us because we do not hate the God they hate. They hate the One who is in us." (Directions devotional, March 2nd)

- i. So... this is why we're at war ("they" hate God)
- ii. This is also why we can claim victory (Christ is in us)

XI. Preparing For This Battle

a. What Is "Sinking Your Battleship"?

- i. This new series will help you to fight the good fight (2 Timothy 4:7) & keep the faith (not give up).
- ii. Next 3 weeks = "Substances", "Sexuality", and "Self"

b. Getting Suited Up For Battle

- i. Realize you're in battle, means you need to be ready
- ii. Getting ready = putting on the Armor of God (Eph 6)

Get Ready: "Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm." (v.13, NLT)

The Elements of Armor: "Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (vv.14-17, NLT)

Important! "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." (v.18, NLT)

XII. Fighting Your Battle

a. Recognize The Dartboards

- i. Satan's Dartboard = Painted on you (His target is you)
- ii. Your Dartboard = Sin (iniquity) = missing the mark



b. The Battle Is Underway

- i. Jesus has already received most of the battle scars
 1. 1 John 3:8 = "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil" (KJV).

c. It's All In The Mind

- i. The core of this battle is a battle for your mind!
- ii. "The only way to stand against the kind of evil beings, which we wrestle, is to submit ourselves continually to the mind of God and resist any being, which hates God. The mind of Christ is what we need for this battle and it is the mind we have been given by grace." (Directions devotional, March 2nd)



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