



## Persistent challenges to recovering authenticity

- \_\_\_\_\_ where we have strayed from God's hope for our lives.
- It is easy to \_\_\_\_\_ our human faculties—our ability to take things too far.

## Unpacking the mask of lust

- Lust affects our relationship with God and our relationships with one another.
- Lust involves a sincere view of the world that sees everything as subject to \_\_\_\_\_, human desire.
- Desire, when rightly understood, can be a good thing.

*God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply..."* Genesis 1:28 (NRSV)

- A misguided human approach to relationships (and sexuality) is rooted in a longing for power, security, and a visible hierarchy of gender.

## What factors support lustful choices?

- Conversations around lust never tend to travel beyond the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Lust derives from a mispurposing of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Technology and media have increased accessibility to someone else's vulnerability or personhood.

## Where does lust conflict with faith?

- Lust removes any ounce of genuineness one should find in holy relationships.
- The major danger with lust is \_\_\_\_\_.

*You have heard it said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at [someone] with lust has already committed adultery with [them] in [their] heart.* Matthew 5:27-28 (NRSV)

- Genuine love is \_\_\_\_\_ desire. Lust is \_\_\_\_\_ desire.

## **The story of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-5, 12:1-8 NIV) raises helpful insight into the harm of lust**

- Curiosity can get the best of us.
- The mask of lust looks at everything as \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.
- The peculiarity of the mask of lust is that it can easily tell us we are in the right.

## **Where does the Church come in?**

- The stains of human choice have traumatic impact. The masks of human error and human indecency can lead to permanent scars.
- No one should have to go through life thinking that their identity is bound up in someone else's image but God's alone.

*Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

- The risen Christ invites us into a life where our sins are redeemed, but we have to take responsibility of that gift.

*...For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.*

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (NIV)

## **What can we do?**

- Reclaim our definition of \_\_\_\_\_. Intimacy is not about personal gain or exploiting.
- Seek \_\_\_\_\_. We ache for the Church to be a place of refuge and trust. In many ways, people have forgotten that.

*"...all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

- Jesus does not call us to condemn flaws, but invites us to walk toward \_\_\_\_\_ with the spiritually depleted.