

# **Perversion**

**Office Lighthouse Discussion Materials**

## **Perversion**

### **Chapter 1 - Defined**

Perversion is defined as a diverting from the true intent. If one has turned from the truth or proper purpose he is perverting.

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There are shades of perversion such as to be perverse or: a little wrong, contrary, wayward, touchy, crusty, crabby or cranky. The other end of the scale is perverted or: deviant, abnormal, amoral, immoral, bad, depraved, degenerate, wicked or evil.

In our culture some see perverse as acceptable and perverted as unacceptable.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Have you encountered perversion in your business or personal life? Explain.
- 2) If there are degrees of perversion, or degrees of right and wrong, at what point is the line crossed from truth to falsehood?
- 3) If truth is relative and not absolute how does this effect perversion? How do you feel about truth?
- 4) What do you see as the consequences of minor perversions as opposed to the consequences of major perversions?
- 5) "And the truth shall set you free." (The Bible) What do you think this statement is talking about with regard to perversion?
- 6) In the last twenty plus years what perversions can you think of that were once viewed with censorious condemnation that are now viewed with greater permissiveness or considered correct?

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### Chapter 2 - Love/Hate

Love is probably the greatest virtue of all. The opposite of love is hate. To love others would mean one would respond to others with; affection, charity, compassion, benevolence, adoration, fondness, commitment, and deep caring. If we hate someone we respond to them with: animosity, aversion, dislike, enmity, hostility, ill will, malice, vindictiveness, fear, dread or fright.

To love or hate, the responses are clearly different. The perversions of love appear to be loving responses, yet are destructive.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Permissive/enabling behaviors are perversions of love. Comment if you see this statement as factual, and why or why not?
- 2) Is overly protective smothering love behavior a perversion of love? Why or why not?
- 3) Would being manipulative be a perversion of love? Can you think of manipulative people you have had to deal with and how their behavior was destructive?
- 4) We see others and ourselves choose the perversion behaviors over positive behaviors. Why do you think people make perversion choices?
- 5) Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this; that he lays down his life for his friends." (The Bible) Short of actual death, what might this look like in relationships?
6. In dealing with profit motivated business people what are some behaviors you look for that indicates perversion is their style?

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### **Chapter 3 - Faith**

Faith might be defined as a strict adherence to duty, and promises as with one's word or honor pledged. If we have faith our behavior might reflect: trustworthiness, integrity, reliability, loyalty, dependability, consistency, belief, trust, confidence or conviction.

The opposite of faith could be defined as fickleness; the changeable mind often vacillating. The faithless person's behavior might be: untrustworthy, uncertain, wayward, and double minded or unbelievable.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Life could be looked at as an ongoing battle between faith and unbelief. How do you handle this battle in your life?
- 2) Legalism, doing the right thing for the wrong reasons, might be a perversion of faith. What is your perspective on this idea?
- 3) The perversion of faith can be seen in extremism. Do you have experience with extremism? If so in what way?
- 4) Workaholicism could be a perversion of faith. Are you prone to over commitment? If so, is it a lack of faith on your part?
- 5) "And without faith it is impossible to please God." (The Bible) What part do you think faith plays in relationships with God or man?
- 6) What are things you see people putting faith in and how has it worked for or against them?

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### **Chapter 4 - Joy**

The positive behavior of joy is identified with delight, gladness, calm, cheerfulness, bliss, enjoyment, contentment, radiance.

The opposite of joy are pain, hurt, wounded, agony, anguish, distress, misery torment.

Your circumstances may produce pleasure, but joy is more than pleasure, joy is higher and grander than pleasure, a constant experience that comes from your inner being. (T.J. Hunt and Claude N. King)

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Are frenzy, crazed excitement and/or hysteria, perversions of joy? Why or why not?
- 2) What are some examples of the above have you observed or experienced?
- 3) Contentment is an example of joyful behavior. Will having plenty of what you want solve the problem of discontentment? Why or why not?
- 4) Is happiness joy? Why or why not?
- 5) "These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, that your joy may be made full." (Jesus, the Bible) Do you relate to this statement? How so?
- 6) Positive mental attitude teaching promotes a joyful attitude / behavior. Is positive mental attitude a perversion of joy? Why or why not?

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### **Chapter 5 - Goodness**

Something is good when it works. The following words might help us define goodness; uprightness of heart and life, moral, wholesome, productive, functioning, working order.

Knowing the opposites of goodness should help identify what is not good. Badness, unwholesome, evil, corruption, depravity, immorality, wickedness, non-productive, are such words.

Comment on the above.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Can we look at success as a measure of goodness? What determines what success is?
- 2) Finicky nice, is identified as a perversion of goodness. (T.W. Hunt and Claude N. King) Can you think of examples?
- 3) Self righteous is another example of goodness. (T. W. Hunt and Claude N. King) What is wrong with self righteousness? Is pride in our self a perversion of goodness?
- 4) If immorality is bad and moral is good, how do we identify what is good? Is good relative to our own judgment?
- 5) Jesus said that "a good tree produces good fruit". (The Bible) Are his comments of any value in identifying what might be a perversion of goodness?
- 6) What are some things that our culture promotes as good that might be a perversion of goodness? Why?

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### **Chapter 6 - Temperance**

Temperance is self control, a mastery over desires or personal appetites, personal discipline that comes from an inner spiritual strength.

The opposites of temperance would be undisciplined, self indulgent, slothful, lazy, lackadaisical, sluggish, laid back.

Comment on the above.

#### **Discussions Questions:**

- 1) Failure to control our mouth, is this a lack of temperance? Should we say what we think? How about what we feel?
- 2) Alcohol, drugs, food, gambling are serious addictions in this country. Are these best controlled by discipline programs or temperance? Why or why not?
- 3) Justification is a way of feeling ok about one's behavior. Is justification a perversion of temperance? Why or why not?
- 4) Fleshly efforts and self effort are perversions of temperance, according to authors T. W. Hunt and Claude N. King, authors of "The Mind of Christ". Would you agree or disagree? Why?
- 5) Our culture is offering easy credit, low interest rates, and interest free purchase plans. Should we always take advantage of a good deal? How does this relate to temperance?
- 6) Business situations can be opportunities or temptations. How can we tell which is which? How does temperance fit in with business decisions?