

Frequently Asked Questions About the Grace Transformed Sexuality Seminar

1. How do you get the men who most need the seminar to attend?

It is absolutely essential that the GTS seminar be marketed as *an equipping event for every man and young man in the church* and NOT a seminar for those who have a pornography problem.” Advertising the seminar should sound something like this. *In the 21st century, with pornography so readily available, our pastoral staff and session want every man and young man in the church to be equipped with grace-centered principles for fighting the battle with lust. Even if you personally don’t struggle in this area, you probably have a friend, son, or grandson, who does (since 65-75% of Christian men do).*

Christian men, who secretly look at pornography, are usually ambivalent. On the one hand, they are terrified that their wife, kids, or Christian friends might find out about it. Yet, the Spirit of God is inwardly convicting them that they need help. And they do often fear that their secret practice might become a full-blown addiction. What they need is a SAFE PLACE to get help. This seminar must be advertised as a safe place, so those who attend cannot be labeled with a PA (Pornography Addict) hung around their neck.

2. What about church leaders who secretly struggle with lust and fear being put on the spot?

This seminar is safe. Men are not put on the spot to share anything too personal, much less the details of looking at pornography. Discussion questions are intentionally general, e.g. “Which principles stood out most in this section of the seminar?”—NOT “What time of day do you struggle most with looking at pornography?” Even general discussions about battling lust enable men to learn from each other and realize they are not the only one struggling.

3. How would you answer the objection, “sexual purity seminars rarely work and often just heap an extra load of guilt on our shame-laden men?”

We agree. The GTS seminar does not give 10 steps for conquering lust that a man can take Thursday afternoon at 2:00 and be done with lust forever. Such simplistic approaches fail to recognize that battling lust is about the idols that pull on our desires promising to satisfy the longings of our hearts. Heart change is never quick or easy. Simplistic formulas can also create a false expectation of success that sets a man up to be crushed by shame when he surrenders again to lust.

Unlike many other seminars, the GTS seminar is about changing the way a man views the Christian life, including sexual desire and lust. It is about equipping him to look at all of life, and specifically his battle with lust, through the lens of the gospel of grace. As Tiim Keller says, “We can only change permanently as we take the gospel more deeply into our hearts.” Taking grace from our head to our heart dramatically changes how we approach the battle with lust.

4. We’re not that big. How can we afford to host GTS?

All that is required is the guarantee of a minimum of 25 men attending, with each one paying \$25. (Churches may subsidize the cost.) That covers our very reasonable honorarium. The only additional cost is Dr. Yagel’s transportation from Olney, MD (near DC), plus light refreshments for the breaks.

5. Even a grace-centered perspective on the battle with lust is not gained in one Saturday morning seminar. How is the teaching of the seminar, reinforced over time?

Every participant is given a copy of the 9 week men’s group bible study, *Grace Transformed Sexuality*. Churches that host the seminar are encouraged to discuss with their leadership how best to encourage men to go through the study with at least one other man. Effective groups range from 2 to 7 or 8.

In addition, Dr. Yagel is available to help each church establish support groups for men who have sexual addictions. Gary has worked with both John Freeman of Harvest USA and Nate Larkin of the Samson Society to establish celebrate recovery types of support groups for men in our churches.