

Two Approaches to Bible Study

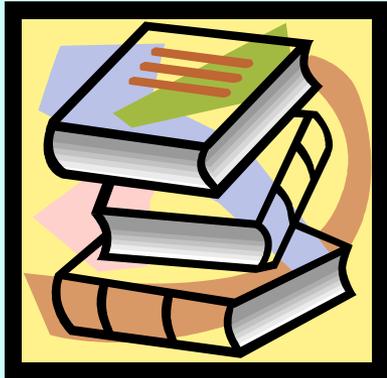
The Vertical Method



Focused on one paragraph, section, & book at a time

The Horizontal Method

Old Testament



Rest of NT



Pausing in a paragraph, or verse, to study similar passages

Bird's-eye View

II. The Believers' Submission (2:11-3:12)

A. Preparation for submission: Live so that unbelievers will glorify God (2:11-12a)

1. Prep #1: Orient to your status in life: Sojourners and pilgrims (2:11a)
2. Prep #2: Keep away from lust (2:11b)
3. Prep #3: Do good works even though slandered (2:12a)

II. The Believers' Submission (2:11-3:12)

B. The objective of submission:
That unbelievers will glorify God
(2:12b)

C. Five key areas of submission
that God may be glorified (2:13-
3:12)

1. To government (2:13-17)
2. To employers (2:18-20)
3. Excursus: Christ's Example (2:21-25)
4. To husbands (3:1-6)
5. To scripture regarding wives (3:7)
6. To one another (3:8-12)

Sin Nature and 7 Lusts

Intellectual lust

Ephesians 2:3

Food lust

Psalm 78:29-31

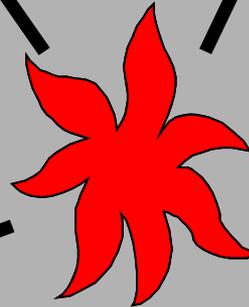
Flesh

Power lust

3 John 9-10

Sex lust

Matthew 5:28



Sin nature

Approbation lust

John 12:43

Materialism lust

Revelation 18:12-14

Pleasure lust

2 Timothy 3:4

8 Characteristics of Lust

1. **Sensuality** is characteristic of those without the indwelling Holy Spirit, who are sensual persons, walking *according to their own lusts* (Jude 16, 18; ditto 2 Peter 3:3 re: scoffers in last days about the 2nd coming).
2. **Unclean**, i.e., unconfessed lust puts one outside the sphere of fellowship (*defiling passion*, 2 Peter 2:10).
3. **Deceitful**, because their pay-off is counterfeit; they promise happiness, but result in guilt, addiction, etc. (Ephesians 4:22).
4. **Ungodly**, living in a manner at cross purposes to sound doctrine and Christian practice (Jude 18).

8 Characteristics, con't

5. **Foolish**, which speaks of not using one's capacity for understanding, thus to think and behave foolishly (1 Timothy 6:9).
6. **Harmful**, which denotes moral and spiritual harm. Verse 10 says that foolish and harmful lusts *drown men in destruction and perdition*, speaking of serious harm that would include the sin unto death (1 Timothy 6:9).
7. **Corrupts** the world, speaking of ruin or destruction, with the implication of disintegration (2 Peter 1:4).
8. **Disrespect** for authority. People driven by lust *are presumptuous, self-willed; they are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries* (2 Peter 2:10).

Two counterproductive factors to victory over lust

Factor #1:

The law because it enflames lust.

Romans 7:5, *For when we were in the flesh, the passions of sins which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.*

Romans 7:8, *Sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.*

Factor #2:

Humanly invented taboos

Colossians 2:21-23, *Taboos are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.*

What does unchecked lust do to our lives?

Lust chokes an individual's spiritual life: Jesus said that lusts such as materialism lust (*riches*) and *pleasure*-lust choke Christians' lives so that they bring no fruit to maturity (Luke 8:14).

Lust wages war against our souls: Fleshly lusts ... war against the soul (1 Peter 2:11). Cf. Galatians 5:17 where the flesh/ lust is opposed and contrary to the Spirit.

Lust disables one's ability to learn the truth: Though context deals with certain kind of women, the principle applies equally to men (cf. 2 Timothy 3:6-7 with 4:3-4).

Unchecked Lust, con't

Lust disrupts relationships: James 4 says that whether at personal or nation levels, lust—particularly for pleasure (4:1) and for possessions (4:2)—drives unity and peace out of relationships, replacing them with *fighting and wars* (James 4:1-3).

Finally, lust destroys a person's capacity for life: Lusts *drown men in destruction and perdition, as they pierce themselves through with many sorrows* (1 Timothy 6:9-10; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:6-7). James refers to the antithesis of capacity for life as “death”—a death-like experience and non-productivity for the Lord (James 1:15).

How do we counterattack and defeat personal lust?

First how to is mentally and volitionally assign lusts to death

Therefore put to death [aorist active imperative] your members which are on the earth: passion, evil desire and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5)

So also Romans 6:12; 13:14; Galatians 5:24; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Peter 1:14; 2:11; 4:2; cf. Titus 3:3.

Defeating Lust, con't

Second How-to is to walk by means of the Spirit

Walk by the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16)

How?

1. Through obedience to the understanding He gives you of the written Word
2. Through the inner desires/ ambitions He implants in your heart,
3. And according to the abilities and opportunities He provides.

God's enablement to defeat lust and temptation

1. The statement of His will: Deny lust (Colossians 3:5; 2 Timothy 2:22; Titus 2:12).
2. He crucified our “old man,” thus breaking the tyrannical power of the flesh and its lusts (Romans 6:1-14). We can say “no!” to lust and temptation & make it stick!
3. He gives us the indwelling Holy Spirit, who enables us to walk by the Spirit so that we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

God's Enablement, con't

4. He makes us sufficient to crucify the flesh with its passions and desires.

Cp. Galatians 5:24 with 2 Corinthians 3:5, *not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.*

“Abstain from lusts,”
i.e., *Stop It!*
(1 Peter 2:11)

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“Good Works” that Matter

1. They are done in accordance with a **right standard** (=the Word of God, 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
2. From a **right motive** (=love and gratitude for redemption, 1 Thessalonians 1:3; Hebrews 6:10; cf. 1 Corinthians 13).
3. With a **right aim** (=God’s glory; 1 Corinthians 10:31; cf. 6:20; Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12). Acceptable good works are works of love toward God and men, for ‘love fulfills the law’ (Romans 13:8–10; cf. Matthew 22:36–40).
4. By the **right power**/enablement (=filling of the Holy Spirit, 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; Galatians 5:18)

First Things First

- 1. Strip off the problems of 2:1, malice, etc.**
- 2. Commit to taking in the word that growth may occur (2:2).**
- 3. Keep coming to Christ in fellowship and prayer (2:4).**
- 4. Counterattack the lusts that wage war against your soul, winning the battle for inner space (2:11).**
- 5. Then launch into the battle for outer space, with honorable conduct and good works (2:12).**

Stop It! (“abstain”)

then

**Go for it!
 (“good works”)**

--End--