

# THE ANATOMY OF LUST & P@&%



"As we first turned away from God in our thoughts, so it is in our thoughts that the first movements toward the renovation of the heart occur." – Dallas Willard.

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."  
– A.W. Tozer

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- Check in with each other.
- What is a corrupted belief you see in society today and why do you think people fall for this corrupted belief?
- How have you blown it lately? Consider a negative **behavior** or **emotion** and share it with your partner.
- Now share the "**corrupt**" **belief** that was driving this behavior or emotion.

## INDUCTIVE STUDY

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

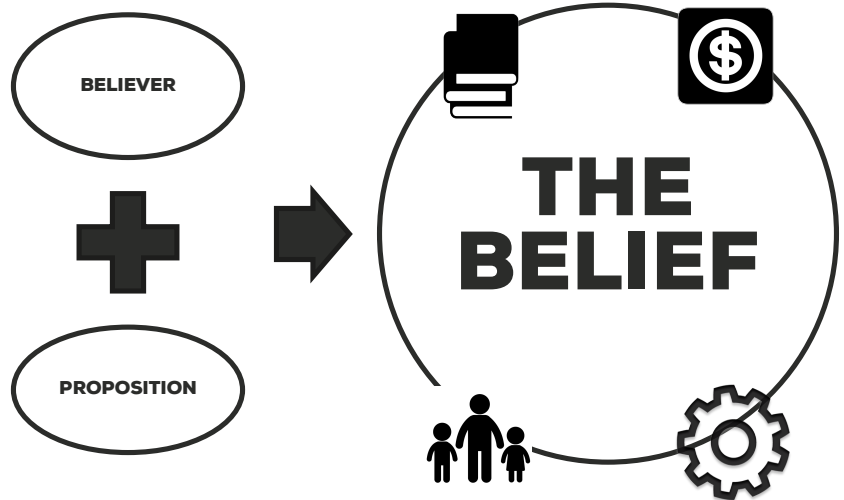
JAMES 1:12-15

## FOUR PRINCIPLES ABOUT CORRUPT BELIEFS

**PRINCIPLE ONE:** We **CREATE** belief systems.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD."  
 – Isaiah 55:8

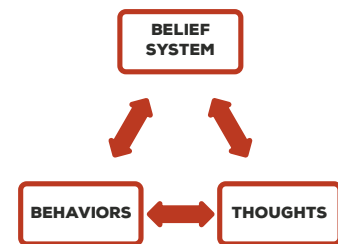
- We are a believing being.
- As we are exposed to data we make judgments, develop concepts, and inferences about life that result in **ideas** and **images** that comprise our beliefs.
- Belief systems require two parties: **the believer** (a subject) and **the proposition** (an object).
- A cluster of these beliefs results in a "belief system" which is simply a cluster of **ideas** and **images**.



**PRINCIPLE TWO:** We are **CONTROLLED** by our belief systems.

"For as he thinks within himself, so he is." – Proverbs 23:7

- Belief systems are what make us a human being.
- Belief systems are what we use to make sense of the world around us.
- Belief systems dictate how we think (thoughts) and what we do (behaviors). And the reverse is also true-- our thoughts and behaviors contribute to or impact what we believe.
- Belief systems are subtle and pervasive.



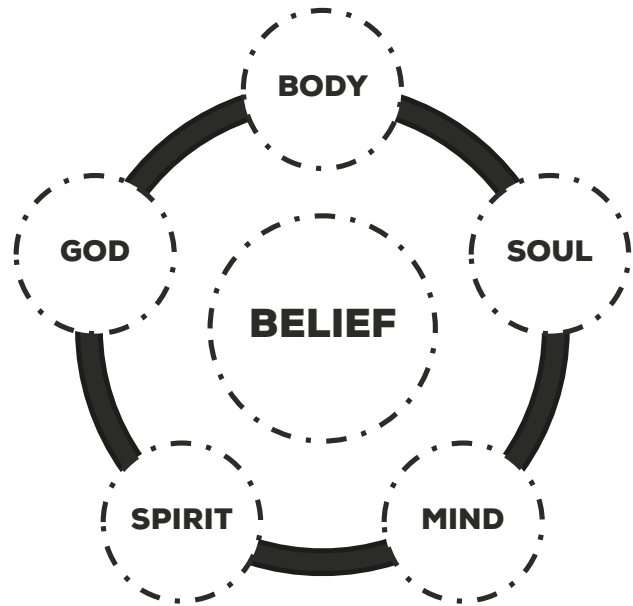
**PRINCIPLE THREE:** We have **CORRUPTED** belief systems.

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless." - Romans 3:10-11

"They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one." - Psalm 53:3

"The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." - Genesis 6:5

- Corrupt belief systems distort everything including how we view God, His Spirit, soul, mind, and body. They corrupt our entire being.
- Corrupt belief systems are **not consensual or uniform**. They are different for every person yet still corrupt the same.
- Corrupt belief systems are **deeply personal** and can involve long heritage combined with strong personal commitment.
- Corrupt belief systems **are like a rowboat in deep water**. They are difficult to change or dismantle due to the risk of sinking while at sea.
- Corrupt belief systems are corrupted by **sin**.



**PRINCIPLE FOUR:** God must **CREATE** the belief system.

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." - John 14:6

## SIX CORRUPT BELIEFS ABOUT LUST & PORNOGRAPHY

### CORRUPT BELIEF ONE – *“An occasional look is okay.”*

- **Counter Principle 1:** Occasional looking builds apathy to holiness.
  - “For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.” **1 Thessalonians 4:7**
- **Counter Principle 2:** Occasional looking is not the problem, it’s the intent.
  - “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” **Matthew 5:27-28**

### CORRUPT BELIEF TWO – *“It’s better than having sex before or outside of marriage.”*

- **Counter Principle 1:** Justifying a behavior is not fleeing immorality, it is taking steps toward immorality.
  - “For, as it is written, <sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality.” **1 Corinthians 16:17-18**
- **Counter Principle 2:** Sexual perversion is a unique sin against your body.
  - “Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.” **1 Corinthians 16:18**
- **Counter Principle 3:** The *“it’s better than”* logic tends to want to obscure the boundaries of the sexual exclusivity of the honoring the marriage covenant.
  - “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.” **Hebrews 13:4**

### CORRUPT BELIEF THREE – *“It’s my way to relax.”*

- **Counter Principle 1:** Yes, it meets real needs in a false way.
  - “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” **Philippians 4:6**
- **Counter Principle 2:** Justification is your path to becoming calloused to righteousness.
  - “Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.” **1 John 3:4**

### CORRUPT BELIEF FOUR – *“I am in control and only do it once in a while.”*

- **Counter Principle:** You are not in control you are handing yourself over to be controlled.
  - “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.” James 1:14-15
- **Counter Principle:** We are to be controlled by the Spirit and not to the flesh.
  - “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” **Galatians 5:16**

### CORRUPT BELIEF FIVE – *“It’s not hurting anyone.”*

- **Counter Principle 1:** It appears private but viewing objectifies people, reinforces prejudice, and enslaves women and men in prostitution.
  - “For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **Galatians 5:14**

### CORRUPT BELIEF SIX – *“It enhances sex in marriage.”*

- **Counter Principle 1:** It connects relationship to fantasy.
  - “But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” **Matthew 5:28**
- **Counter Principle 2:** It reinforces idol (image) worship.



- o "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."  
**Romans 12:1**