

The Spiritual War in Your Home, Part 6 | the battlefield

I. Lusts are desires . . . both good and bad.

- Jesus used the word in Luke 22:15 to refer to His own desire to eat the Passover with His disciples.
- But in John 8:44 Jesus — talking to the Pharisees — said, *“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.”* Satan’s desires are obviously wicked.
- But given the way that the word is being used in I John 2, I believe translating it as “lust” instead of “desire” was best. The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes are sinful and are consistently communicated as such throughout Scripture.

II. The Pride of Life is the battleground of Self-Worth.

- We talked about self-esteem last time. These ideas are very similar.
- In regard to worshipping God or self, when I replace God’s commands with my desires, I’ve shown God, everyone else, and myself that I value myself over God. My way has more worth.
- It’s been said that pride is at the core of all sin. The arrogance it would take to suggest that my desires, my plans, my expectations, my abilities are better and more trustworthy and more valuable than God’s is so deluded. This is the meaning of the word here in I John 2. It’s used only two times in Scripture — here and James 4:16 — where it says, *“But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.”*
- This kind of arrogance actually exceeds the pride of Satan from Isaiah 14:14. Satan thought he could make himself like the Most High. At least Satan was a spiritual being with supernatural powers. We’re finite creatures, in many ways far more impotent than the angels, and yet we try to make ourselves like the Most High — we get to be the final authority in our lives.
- How do you know whether Satan or the World or the Flesh is overcoming you or your family members on the battlefield of the Pride of Life? There are two main ways:
 - What’s being said? The Pride of Life speaks its heresies. This may sound like, “But I don’t want to go to bed,” “Leave me alone!” “But I . . .,” and even a firm “No!” But it can also sound religious: The sentence “God wants me to be happy!” used to justify sin. “I feel like God wouldn’t want me to make other people feel uncomfortable,” used to avoid confronting people about sin.
 - What’s being done? Remember, the Lust of the Eyes and the Lust of the Flesh flow from the Pride of Life. Therefore, where they are, you know the Pride of Life is involved.
 - Today, your children’s words and actions will betray what they’re worshipping. Listen and watch carefully and know that every self-centered word and sinful choice is the revelation that your child has been overcome on the battlefield of the Pride of Life.

III. The Lust of the Eyes is the battleground of Self-Seeking.

- Matthew 6:22-23; Proverbs 27:20, Ecclesiastes 1:8; Proverbs 17:24; Psalm 73:7; II Samuel 11:2; Matthew 5:27-28; Job 31:1
- When defenses have fallen on the frontlines of pride and arrogance, it’s not hard to overcome the backup forces defending the piece of ground called the Lust of the Eyes.
- The Lust of the Eyes refers to the unique place our eyes play in our desires. Imagine what you would not desire if you could not see. Nearly 100% of after-school commercials would cease to appeal to your kids.

- But once Satan has overpowered our defenses in the Pride of Life, he can send his beautiful sirens in to distract and seduce our compromised army.
- The Lust of the Eyes includes gazing, coveting, lusting, and greed. It's Self-Seeking — constantly searching for that which will make us feel the way we want to feel.
- How will you know if your family is being overwhelmed on the battlefield of the Eyes? This one is harder. You can't always know what your kids are seeing and how they're responding to it. Greed and envy and covetousness is an inner man problem. But, just like the Pride of Life, it will slip out in what we do and say.
 - Just like with the last point, you need to be an interpreter of your kids. You need to hear their words the "I want" and carefully determine what's motivating them.
 - And anytime your children disobey — any time they refuse to eat their food, refuse to go to bed, hit their sibling, pop the pills their friends gave them — you can know for certain that they saw, they lusted, and they gave in. Satan, the World, and — ultimately — the Flesh overwhelmed them and left them in ruin.

I. The Lust of the Flesh is the battleground of Self-Autonomy.

- Ephesians 2:3; Romans 13:14; I Peter 2:11; Galatians 5:19; Matthew 4:2-10; Genesis 3:6
- Pride says, "I'm worthy of worship." The Lust of the Eyes says, "I see the thing that will satisfy me." And the Lust of the Flesh says, "And here I go to claim it."
- Each sin is a choice to claim my own pleasure. Each transgression of God's Law grows from the lust to have something He forbids or to reject something He expects.
- Every single one of us is born into this world consumed by the flesh, dead in our trespasses and sins.
- Thank the Lord that the Pride of Life and the Lust of the Eyes exhibits itself in the physical realm . . . or we may never see it in our families.
- But when the fronts of Pride and Covetousness are compromised, there will be defeat on the battleground of our Behavior.
- Not only do we have to constantly defend those fronts against the never-relenting onslaught of Satan and the World and the Flesh, but not only do we need to help our family members recapture lost ground, sometimes the fight to recapture these battlefields is much harder than others.
- When the enemy forces are allowed to occupy those areas of our lives day in and day out, they set up fortresses and bulwarks and landmines.
- Thankfully, though the thought of helping your children turn the tide of the spiritual war in their lives may seem impossible, God has given us the weapons we need.
- Consider II Corinthians 10:4, "*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*"