

# Silent Struggles: Shepherding Men Navigating Secret Sin

## Darryl Jacobsen

### I. Introduction: A Call to Courageous Shepherding

- Pornography isn't just out there in the culture; it's disciplining men *inside* the church more effectively than we are.
- Freedom isn't just possible, it's promised in Christ.

### II. Theological Foundation: Change Rooted in Grace

- Key Concept: We don't fight porn with guilt or grit, but with grace.
  - **Forgiving Grace**: Understanding that in Christ, guilt is truly paid for
  - **Transforming Grace**: Grace not only forgives but empowers change
  - **Repentance as the Bridge**: Confess, Affirm forgiveness, Request grace

### III. The Role of the Heart in Lasting Change

- Key Concept: Address root issues, not just surface behavior.
  - **Probing Heart Questions**: Not just what, but why
  - **Common Idols behind Sexual Sin**: Comfort, Approval, Escape, Pleasure
  - **Framework for Replacing the Idol with Christ**

### IV. Practical Tools for Shepherding Men in Secret Sin

- Key Concept: Counselors need to persevere in grace-fueled ministry.
  - **Start with the Gospel**: Every conversation should move toward Christ.
  - **Accountability done right**: It's not just reporting sin—it's fighting together.
  - **Radical Measures**: Call men to *extreme* steps for radical change.
  - **Confession and Community**: Men grow when they walk in light with other men.
  - **Marriage/Singleness**: Their relational state is to pursue holiness, not excuse sin.

### V. Common Pitfalls in Counseling Men

- **Focusing only on Behavior**: Overlooking the heart, settling for external change

- **Playing the Savior:** Becoming the savior instead of pointing to the Savior
- **Avoiding Confrontation:** Truth-telling is a great gift you can offer
- **Expecting Quick Results:** Underestimating how long the battle may take
- **Neglecting your Own Holiness:** Helping others while ignoring your own walk

## **VI. Encouragement and Commission**

- Key Concept: You are not the change agent—God is. You are the instrument.
  - **You Are Not Alone:**
    - Christ is with you
    - The Holy Spirit empowers you
    - God’s Word guides you
  - **You Don’t Need a Degree:** You need a Bible and a tender heart
  - **Your Faithfulness Matters:** Even when you can’t see the results

## **VII. Q&A/Table Discussion**