

BATTLE PRIMER



Clarity About Transparency

By Paul Klassen, Executive Director

Transparency: Lifestyle or Strategy

Did you know that Legos are starting to be made out of plant-based material sourced from sugar cane? By 2030 they plan on making all of their bricks out of bio-plastic¹.

According to carbonandmore.com, “4 out of 10 respondents report they made a sustainable purchase in the preceding 6 months. 52% of respondents say their purchase decision was at least partially affected by social and environmental impact labels/notifications on packaging. 2/3 of all consumers choose sustainable products over conventional products.”² The big question is, are these companies more focused on appearing sustainable and socially concerned (strategy) or are they truly committed to these things because of what they believe at their core (lifestyle)? “Transparency” is a current buzz word, but how do we know that a company or organization is truly who they promote themselves as being?

And what about you and me? As we consider our own transparency, are we simply jumping through the hoops that our church or tradition prescribes without really wanting to change

or work at it (strategy)? Or, are we willing to become more and more authentic within ourselves and with others (lifestyle)?

Real, Effective, Fruitful Transparency

What if I told you that ongoing confession and repentance before Jesus and trusted people can bring you into the life you've always longed for? Faithful & True (faithfulandtrue.com), a ministry that helps men, women, and couples recover from the effects of unwanted sexual behavior, uses these three words to express the hope that each person has in Christ: FREEDOM, HONESTY, and INTIMACY. Again, the secret? confession and repentance!

Whoever conceals his transgression will not prosper,

But he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Blessed is the one who fears the LORD always,

But whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity. - Proverbs 28:13,14

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. -

James 5:16

Simply admitting that you've done wrong, or even agreeing with God and others that you've sinned, is a huge step, but it's not enough. According to these verses, there must also be a forsaking of these sins, a repentance, a confession to one another that leads to prayer for one another. As I've been able to hear story after story of husbands getting caught in some sort of sexual sin, I'm seeing more clearly the need for confession AND repentance.

Someone who ONLY admits that what they've done is wrong could have been forced to do it, or could be sincere but not really want to change, or could really want to change but not have the tools to do it. On the other hand, a person who takes steps to forsake their sin, pray with others, and change their ways will experience the most successful life ever: a life honoring to God, full of gaining freedom from sin, being honest in all areas, and experiencing closeness with others.

What if NOTHING was totally hidden?

My first response to this question is, "AHHH!" It's kind of like the guy in this stock photo, with everybody supporting him but I'm also thinking, "Sure glad I'm not him!"



Notice the wording of the question, "What if nothing was totally hidden?" It's not that EVERYTHING is completely out there, it's that there's nothing

in your life that at least one person doesn't know about. Beyond your confession to God and the promise of forgiveness from Him (1 John 1:9), when we include other trusted Christians in our journey to freedom, we confirm our unity of "fallenness." We acknowledge with them that we're defective, yet valuable creations of God, always in need of His help.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. - 2 Corinthians 4:7

Men who fully disclose to someone are 98% likely to stay married. In addition, the average spouse, over time, is more concerned about her husband being honest than in him engaging in pornography.³ Here's the progression that we can keep in mind regarding our own transparency: 1. Confession and repentance to God, receiving his full forgiveness (1 John 1:9). 2. Acknowledging your "fallenness" and need for help from God and others (2 Cor. 4:7). 3. Bringing trusted believers into your world through discerning transparency (James 5:16) and humble, clear action (2 Timothy 2:18-20). 4. Committing to being a broken vessel who helps others (Ps. 51:13).

How can your lifestyle help others value and practice biblical transparency?

This month's updates

We thank God for . . .

- 7 church events scheduled in Minnesota that will include at least 10 churches.
- A successful matching campaign. Our board initiated a challenge that raised over \$40,000 for Broken Strength!
- The many churches without scheduled events yet who are having conversations at a leadership level answering questions like, "How are we helping our men experience freedom and victory in their sexual brokenness?"
- Joe Smith (former director, current board chair, and constant catalyst) as God has opened doors for him to use his network to schedule events in DC and FL and have vital leadership discussions in VA, Mexico, and more.

We ask God for . . .

- Guidance, protection, and life-change for the 7 Scheduled Purity Events:
 - September 15, 2023 | Jubilee Community Church, Minneapolis, MN
 - September 16, 2023 | Milaca Evangelical Free Church, Milaca, MN
 - September 23, 2023 | Delano Evangelical Free Church, Delano, MN
 - October 7, 2023 | GracePoint Church, New Brighton, MN
 - October 14, 2023 | Northwest Bible Church, St Michael, MN
 - October 21, 2023 | River of Life Church, Hastings, MN
 - January 12, 2024 | Alexandria Covenant Church, Alexandria, MN
- Decision-making of many other churches that may schedule one.
- Boldness and gospel clarity as Joe and Paul engage in preaching, men's retreats, leadership conferences, and ongoing pastoral encouragement.
- An accurate, sober, God-fearing perspective on porn in our culture. We're finding the battle to be full of diverse land mines of shame, apathy, hopelessness, and anger.

We invite you . . .

- *Do you know a church or individual who would like to be informed or added to our prayer team?* Send an email to pklassen@apathtopurity.org
- *Would you like to help us continue to offer our events without charge and any materials at our cost?* You may donate to the ministry at www.apathtopurity.org

Bibliography

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3. <https://www.faithfulandtrue.com/podcast/episode/7b81871a/145-what-recovery-cant-give-you-and-what-it-can>