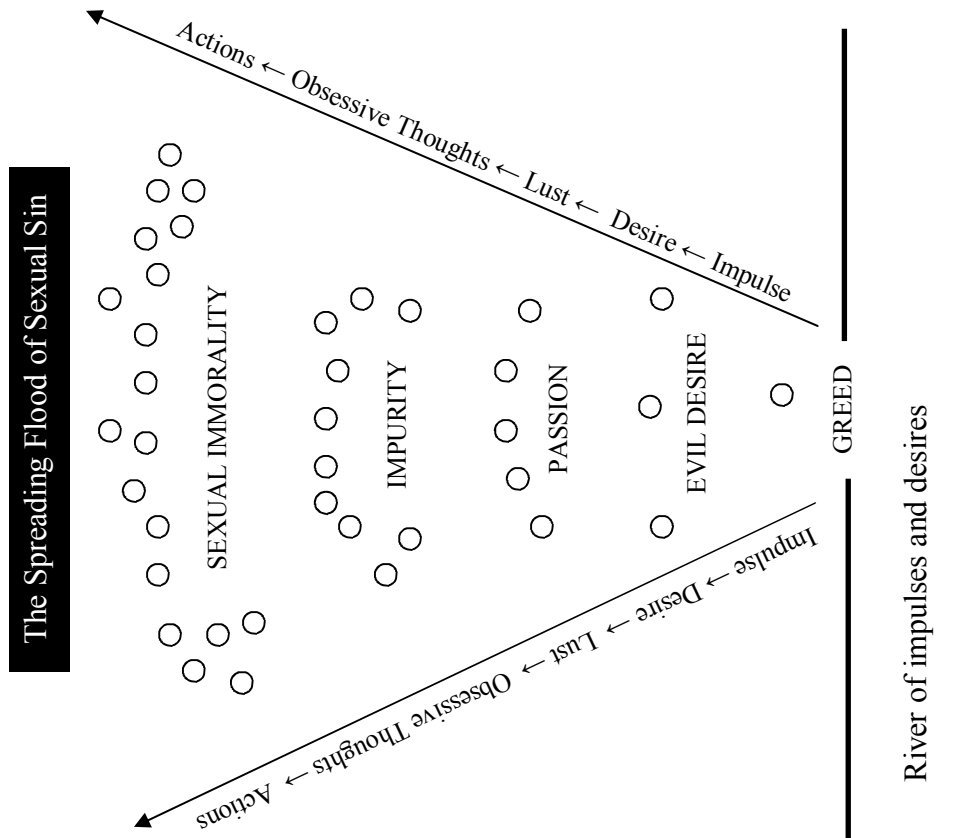


Breaking Free from Sexual Idolatry

Colossians 3:5

Perhaps we find a hint of victorious strategy in the way Paul develops the list of vices here. He begins with the multiplicity of individual acts (“sexual immorality”) and moves progressively toward the root motivation (“covetousness”). Viewing this in reverse order enables us to move from root to fruit.

Picture this progression as a river at flood stage, breaking through the protective levies constructed to hold back its powerful waters.



If this provides an accurate picture of the breakout of sin which leads to increasingly more demonstrable acts of sexual sin, then where would we most strategically apply our efforts in dependence upon the grace of God? Would it be in scurrying about at the level of “sexual immorality” to stop each and every act? Or would it be at the root level where “greed” lusts for “more”? Obviously we must stop the acts of sin. Our best hope of doing this is in nipping in the bud the desires that give rise to them. There is no denying that we all have a river of base impulses and desires that still flows within us. Our most effective steps toward freeing ourselves from their tyranny is in dealing with the original impulse for “more” and the decision to indulge rather than “Put to death” that impulse.