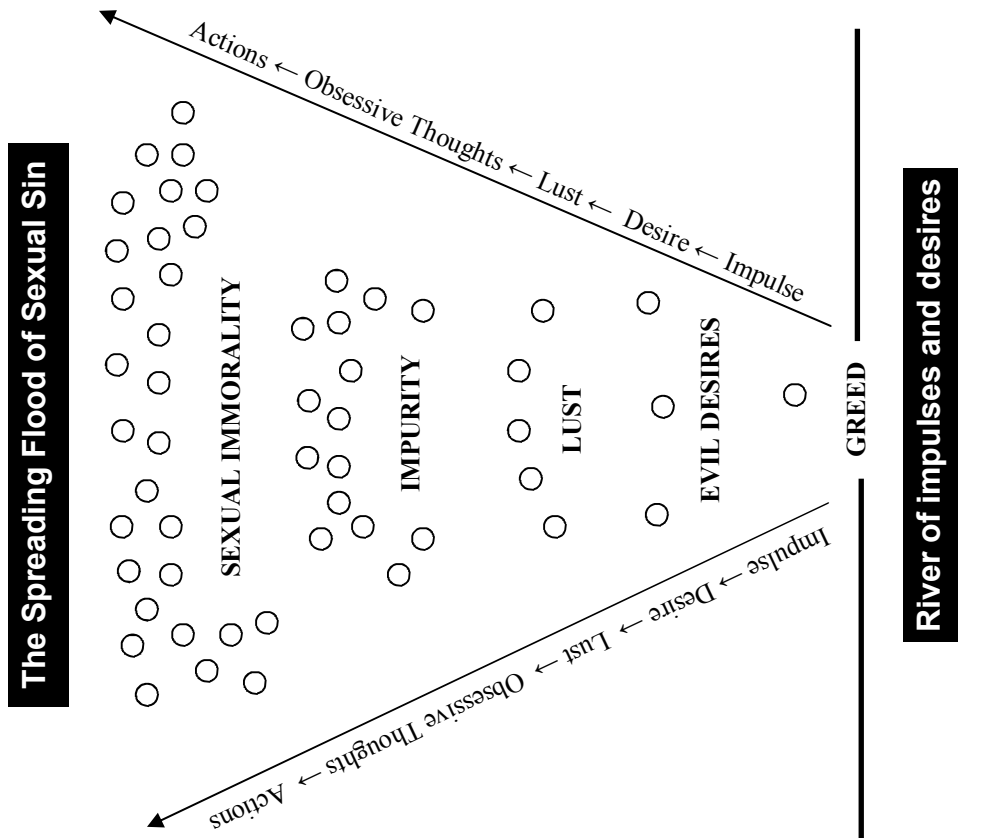


Breaking Free from Sexual Idolatry

Colossians 3:5

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 (“greed”). Viewing this in reverse order enables us to move from root to fruit and realize lasting change.

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, 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. But our best hope of doing so is in nipping in the bud the *impulses* and *desires* from which the acts grow. We all have a river of base impulses and desires that still flows within us. Ultimately the most effective steps toward freedom from the tyranny of sexual idolatry are found in dealing with (“Put to death”) the original impulse for “more” than in trying to just stop each individual act.