

B. Set **boundaries** on unhealthy relationships.

*“But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”*

Matthew 16:23

*“14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

*15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?”*

II Corinthians 6:14-15

C. Cut **off** toxic relationships.

*“17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*

*18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”*

Romans 16:17-18

*“24 Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go,*

*25 Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul.”*

Proverbs 22:24-25

### **Are You Tempted By Relationships?**

*“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*

I Corinthians 10:13

## **TEMPTED**

### **Tempted By Relationships**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

A. Temptation can have the appearance of looking good. You take the first bite, but in a short time, it will turn around and bite you! We have all given into temptation only to find ourselves in pain.

*“12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

*13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.*

*14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.*

*15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

*16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”*

James 1:12-16

B. In this series, come and find hope and relief in dealing with these topics of temptation!

Feb 10	Tempted By Sex
TODAY	Tempted By Relationships
Feb 24	Tempted By Anger
Mar 3	Tempted By Shopping
Mar 10	Tempted By Substance Abuse
Mar 17	Tempted By Food
Mar 24	Tempted By Pride

What’s hidden in the dark is never good!

C. **Text:** I Corinthians 15:33 (Pew Bible/Pg.181/New Test.)

## WHAT TO DO WHEN TEMPTED BY RELATIONSHIPS

### I. THE **POWER** OF RELATIONSHIPS

Show me your friends and I will show you your future.

A. Your inner circle of friends will **influence** you.

*“As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”* Proverbs 27:17

B. Your inner circle of friends will determine your **character** and **destiny**.

*“He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.”* Proverbs 13:20

### II. THE **PURPOSE** OF RELATIONSHIPS

When God wants to bless you, what does He do? He sends you friends. When Satan wants to destroy you, what does he do? He sends you friends.

*“9 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.*

*10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.*

*11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?*

*12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

A. Relationships should produce **success** (4:9)

*“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”* Ephesians 4:16

B. Relationships should produce **support** (4:10-11)

*“2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

*3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

*4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

Philippians 2:2-4

C. Relationships should produce **strength** (4:12)

*“The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain;”* II Timothy 1:16

### III. THE **PRINCIPLES** OF RELATIONSHIP

If you can't change your friends, then you must change your friends.

A. **Pray** for and **seek** out good relationships.

*“12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

*13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:”* Luke 6:12-13

*“A man who has friends must himself be friendly, ...”* Proverbs 18:24a