

Seth Mick

SESSION 6 | Worldliness: The Love of Comfort & How Jesus Frees Us from It

I. RECAP OF REVELATION

1. Persecution
2. Seduction
3. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood (Rev. 1:5)

Main Point: We are not to love comfort less as Christians, rather we are to love comfort so much that we seek the most pleasurable relationship in Christ himself.

II. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE LOVE OF COMFORT?

1. **Definition of comfort: The pursuit of relief from burdens, pain, inconvenience, hardship or need.**
2. **Our culture's idol of comfort**
3. **The personal idol of comfort**

“A restless inner compulsion.”

- all that gets obsessive (I'm always thinking about it);
- all that gets impulsive (Just do it);
- all that gets compulsive (I can't help doing it);
- all that gets cancerous (expanding out of control, devouring);
- all that gets mutant (unstable, restless, bizarre, inhuman, dehumanizing).¹

¹ David Powlison, *Innocent Pleasures?*

III. DIGGING INTO OUR DESIRES

1. Pleasure
2. Fear and safety
3. Escape
4. Disappointment

IV. FREEDOM FROM SINFUL DESIRES

1. **Jesus came to free us from our sinful desires to love comfort**

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

His love my heart has captive made,
His captive would I be,
For He was bound, and scourged and died,
My captive soul to free.

He breaks the power of canceled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” (Rev. 12:11)

2. **Freedom to love**

“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.” (Luke 9:24)

3. **Freedom from the root of pleasure**

¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:15-21)

4. Freedom from the root of fear

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Luke 12: 32-34)

V. CATEGORIES TO THINK IN

1. Leisure time

- Binge watching
- Phones
- Scrolling
- Reading
- Exercise
- Researching

2. Convenience

- Tech
- Cars
- Home
- Stuff

3. Experiences

- Money
- Food and drink
- Health
- Vacations
- Sex

4. Perception

- Appearance
- Clothes
- Figure

5. Security

- Money
- Health
- Relationships

6. Work

- Easy jobs
- Passive income
- Retirement
- Success in career

VI. APPLICATION

1. There is a throne

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

2. Thinking about heaven

3. What to do with comfortable things in this world?

“Enjoyment is becoming idolatrous when it is not permeated with gratitude. When our enjoyment of something tends to make us not think of God, it is moving toward idolatry. But if the enjoyment gives rise to the feeling of gratefulness to God, we are being protected from idolatry. The grateful feeling that we don’t deserve this gift or this enjoyment, but have it freely from God’s grace, is evidence that idolatry is being checked. Enjoyment is becoming idolatrous when it does not see in God’s gift that God himself is to be desired more than the gift. If the gift is not awakening a sense that God, the Giver, is better than the gift, it is becoming an idol.” John Piper