

1 Peter Series

Lesson #121

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

# Sins that War Against the Soul

1 Peter 4:3–6



1<sup>ST</sup> PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT  
OF ETERNITY

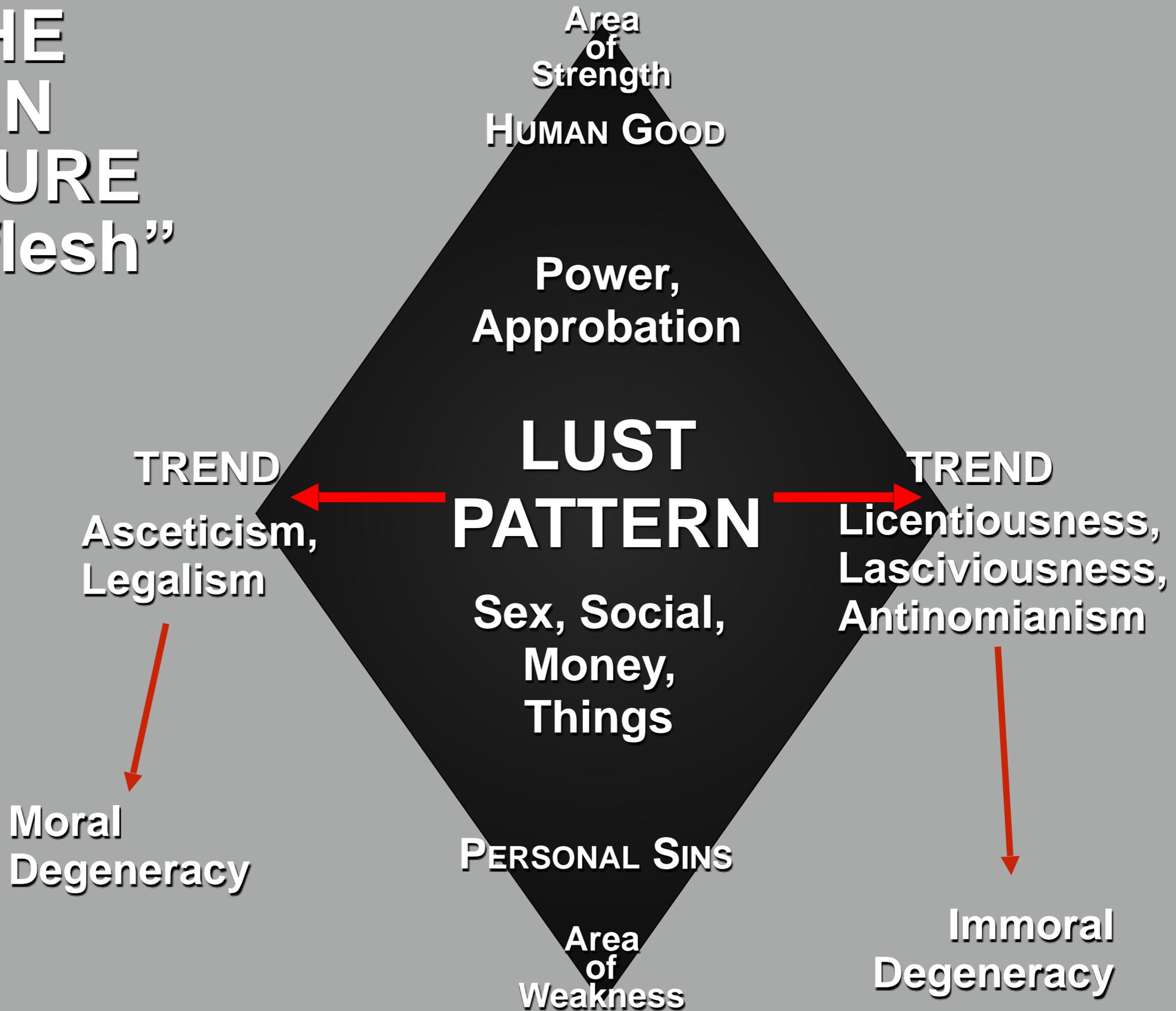
**1 Pet. 4:1, “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,”**

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**1 Pet. 2:11, “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,”**

**What does it mean to war against the soul?**

# THE SIN NATURE “the flesh”



**1 Pet. 1:13, “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**

**1 Pet. 1:14, “as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;**

**1 Pet. 1:15, “but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,**

**1 Pet. 1:16, “because it is written, ‘*Be holy, for I am holy.*’ ”**

**1 Pet. 4:3, “For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.”**

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**ἔθνος *ethnos* nation, people, Gentile**

**Who are the Gentiles?**

**Is this a synonym for unbelievers?  
Or is this just a term for Gentiles in  
contrast to Jews?**

**1 Pet. 2:11, “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,**

**1 Pet. 2:12, “having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”**

**“Again, the use of the term Gentiles demonstrates that Peter is writing to Jewish believers who are living among a Gentile majority. Here again, Covenant Theology likes to change the meaning of the term:**

**He then explains what he means by doing what the Gentiles like to do. (Since Peter has frequently viewed Christians as the new people of God, the true Israel, earlier in this letter [see the summary at 2:10] it is quite natural for him to carry through this terminology by using the term “Gentiles” to refer not to people who are not Jews, but to people who are not Christians.)**

**However, there are no exegetical grounds to claim that when Peter writes the word Gentiles, he means “unbelievers.” In the past, these Jewish believers have been tempted to also follow the Gentiles in fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. Peter lists six manifestations of the desire of the Gentiles.”**

**~A. F., *The Jewish Epistles***

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ἀσέλγεια *aselgeia* dat fem plur *sensuality*

ἐπιθυμία *epithumia* dat fem plur desire, *lust*

οἰνοφλυγία *oinophlugia* dat fem plur  
*drunkenness*

κῶμος *kōmos* dat masc plur *carousing*

πότος *potos* dat masc plur *drinking party*

εἰδωλολατρία *eidōlolatria* dat fem plur *idolatry*

# 1. ἀσέλγεια *aselgeia* dat fem plur *sensuality*

**(1) lewdness: NET has debauchery, others have translated this as abandon, sensuality, licentiousness.**

**A term used to describe Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Pet. 2:7), the pagan world generally (Eph. 4:19) as well as heresy and apostasy,**

**BDAG: lack of self-constraint which involves one in conduct that violates all bounds of what is socially acceptable, self-abandonment, suggesting licentiously for the translation here.**

**unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence**

1. ἄσέλγεια *aselgeia* dat fem plur ***sensuality***

**(1) lewdness:**

**COED defines lewd as crude or offensive in a sexual way**

**Old English *læwede* (originally in sense ‘belonging to the laity’, later ‘belonging to the common people, vulgar’): of unknown origin.**

**Collins: 1 characterized by or intended to excite crude sexual desire; obscene.**

**2 Obsolete. a wicked. b ignorant. [C14: from Old English *læwde* lay, ignorant; see lay]**

**▶ 'lewdly adv ▶ 'lewdness n**

1. ἀσέλγεια *aselgeia* dat fem plur ***sensuality***

**(1) lewdness:**

**therefore, an overt sin related to actions that incite sexual desire which leads to further sexual sin and perversion**

1. ἀσέλγεια *aselgeia* dat fem plur ***sensuality***

**Gal. 5:19, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,”**

1. ἀσέλγεια *aselgeia* dat fem plur ***sensuality***

**Rom. 13:13, “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.”**

1. **ἀσέλγεια** *aselgeia* dat fem plur **sensuality**

**Eph. 4:17**, “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as **the rest of the Gentiles** walk, in the futility of their mind,

**Eph. 4:18**, “having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

**Eph. 4:19**, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”

1. ἀσέλγεια *aselgeia* dat fem plur *sensuality*

2 Cor. 12:21, “lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented [*metanoeo change of mind*] of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.”

**2. ἐπιθυμία *epithumia* dat fem plur desire, *lust***

**a desire for something forbidden or simply inordinate, craving, lust**

**Lusts (ἐπιθυμίαις, *epithymiais*) in 4:2 refers to all human impulses that tend toward immorality, but in this list (4:3), it probably refers more specifically to excessive indulgence in sex or other acts of self-gratification.**

2. ἐπιθυμία *epithumia* dat fem plur desire, *lust*

**Rom. 6:12, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.”**

**Rom. 13:14, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”**

**2. ἐπιθυμία *epithumia* dat fem plur desire, *lust***

**Eph. 4:22, “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,”**

2. ἐπιθυμία *epithumia* dat fem plur desire, *lust*

**Gal. 5:16**, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

**Gal. 5:24**, “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

2. ἐπιθυμία *epithumia* dat fem plur desire, *lust*

**Col. 3:5, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”**

3. οἰνοφλυγία *oinophlugia* dat fem plur  
*drunkenness*

4. κῶμος *kōmos* dat masc plur *carousing* (only 3x)

**Rom. 13:13**, “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.”

**Gal. 5:21**, “envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

**5. πότος *potos* dat masc plur *drinking party* 1×**

6. εἰδωλολατρία *eidōlolatria* dat fem plur  
*idolatry*

**The Greek word for abominable, used by Peter in both this verse and Acts 10:28, includes all kinds of idolatrous acts. This was the past aspect—a time when the Jewish believers desired to live according to the conduct of the Gentiles.**

6. εἰδωλολατρία *eidōlolatria* dat fem plur  
*idolatry*

1 Cor. 10:14, “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”

Gal. 5:20, “idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,”

Col. 3:5, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

**1 Pet. 4:4, “In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”**

**ἄσωτία *asōtia***

**gen fem sing reckless  
living; debauchery**