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All of these comfort things I crave are idols. I'm an idolator.

This is what makes me comfortable

When these things control my heart, then I am dependent on another human to satisfy my longings. This makes that person my "god."

If my "god" does not cooperate, then I look for other lovers, e.g. porn. They will ALWAYS "appreciate" me.

If my "god" does not cooperate, I will then try to manipulate her back into cooperation, e.g. anger, I get mad at her, or withhold forgiveness.

- I need to be significant
- I need to be approved
- I need to be honored
- I need to be appreciated
- I need to be respected
- I need to be applauded
- I need to be accepted
- I cannot be rejected

I'm insecure

The Gospel

1 Timothy 1:15-16

I was the foremost sinner

There is nothing anyone can say or do to me that is worse than what the Gospel has already declared.

Why do other people's words, insults, or accusations bother me, in light of this Gospel truth?

Because I am "in Christ," all the longings of my soul are being satisfied.

Why doesn't my maturing relationship with Christ satisfy and even trump my sinful cravings?

But God showed mercy: I am in Christ

My wife asks me questions that feel threatening or as though I'm not measuring up.

1

I'm Hurt

2

I plead for God's mercy

3

I repent of my fear of man

Repent

I choose to shepherd my wife

She begins to mature through her sin

- Confess my sin
- Seek forgiveness

Rest in God's forgiveness

Reconcile with my wife

I choose to shepherd my wife

I justify my actions

I lust after women

I get angry back

I still don't repent

I get angry

My wife responds in anger

I repent

I choose to shepherd my wife