

# **Fire in the Belly**

## **Session 19: The Corruption of Indulgence**

*1 Peter 4:1-5*

***Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do – living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.***

*Proverbs 25:28*

***Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self control.***

### **I. The danger of pleasure**

- Pleasure can become purpose
- Pleasure can become an escape
- Pleasure can become addiction
- Pleasure can destroy

### **II. Restoring the passion for pleasure**

- Accept the reality of pain
- Accept the boundaries of pleasure
- Live for the pleasure of others
- Live for the pleasure of God

**Discussion Questions:**

1. To the best of your knowledge, was your father a man of self control, a man of indulgence, or somewhere in-between? What impact, if any, do you think he had on your understanding of and pursuit of pleasure?
2. Have you ever been teased or ostracized for refusing to participate in “inappropriate pleasures?”
3. No one enjoys pain, but what have you learned about the role that pain plays in your spiritual growth?
4. What does it mean to you to “live for the pleasure of God?”

