



INTERNET GAMING DISORDER – 4b

QUON KWAN

MARYLAND GOSPEL CHURCH

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• RESOLUTION

- Issues to be resolved
 - ✓ Taking Radical Measures
 - ✓ Managing Time and Priorities
- **Displaced love**

OVERVIEW (1)

- The first step was the urgent step of taking radical measures
 - Taking away electronic devices for game playing
 - Filling voids with useful, beneficial activities, e.g., household chores, work, church or community service
 - Replacing games with purpose or goal-oriented activities that build discipline, self-control, self-responsibility, cooperation & character

OVERVIEW (2)

- The second step was properly managing time & priorities
 - Time is FINITE, NON-RENEWABLE, ONE-DIRECTIONAL resource
 - Scripture says time is to be valued
 - Misusing time when it can be used to do good or what ought to be done is sinful
 - Time can be properly managed by setting priorities according to
 - **Importance** (hierarchical order of importance can be inferred from Bible)
 - **Urgency** (chronological ordering)

DISPLACED LOVE (1)

- Third step is to realize what is displaced love & to minimize it
- What is displaced love?
- St. Augustine came up with theology of **displaced love** when pondering why the death of a close friend was so painful. After all, it was a good to have a close friend.
- Realization: he was loving his friend more than he was loving God. If he had loved God more, it would not have hurt so much
- Conclusion: when loving a good thing **displaces** another good thing that has higher priority, it can cause affliction

DISPLACED LOVE (2)

What are “good things” that can typically displace our love for God?

- Wealth, success, status, power
- Work, hobby, or other avocation
- People: spouse, children, relatives and friends
- Pursuit of hedonism, including internet game-playing
- Even a good thing can become an idol
 - e.g., success or accomplishment or love of children
- Pastor Tim Keller’s *Counterfeit Gods* tells of modern-day idols
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mK65lpveSM&t=74s

DISPLACED LOVE (3)

- What are consequences of worshiping modern-day idols?
 - Worship things and money → you will never have enough
 - Worship body, beauty & sexual allure → you will feel ugly
 - Worship power → you will feel weak, afraid & want more power to numb your fear
 - Worship intellect → you will feel stupid, fraud or being found out
- All these forms of worship are unconscious

*David Foster Wallace "Kenyon College Commencement Address" May 21, 2005 ⁷

DISPLACED LOVE (4)

How can game-playing end up being **displaced love**?

- Giving up other activities or losing interest in former activities due to gaming, especially when they were activities for God, being with God or doing good
- Wanting more & more – not having enough time to play
- Wanting more & more – not feeling powerful enough at winning
- Wanting more & more – not feeling smart enough

DISPLACED LOVE (5)

- In **displaced love**, the “good thing” **displaces** the importance of God
 - The “good thing” is given priority over God or God’s will
 - Therefore, game-playing can become idolized
- Biblical example of displaced love is 1 Samuel 2:29
 - “. . . Why do you honor your sons more than me . . .”
 - God is calling out Eli, the prophet, for honoring his sons more than God by giving his sons “fattened” portions of sacrifice meant for God
 - Irony was that Eli’s sons were worthless [1 Samuel 2:12 (ESV)]

DISPLACED LOVE (6)

- In **displaced love**, the “good thing” displaces God’s importance
 - The “good thing” is given priority over God or God’s will
- Another Biblical example of **displaced love** is Jeremiah 48:7
 - “For because of your trust in your own achievements and treasures, even you yourself will be captured . . .”
 - Jeremiah is speaking for God to the Moabites who have been proud of their accomplishments & wealth, which **displaced** God
 - God allows the Babylonians to capture Moab along with Israel.

DISPLACED LOVE (7)

- Relevant verses
 - Matthew 22:36-37, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. ...” [from Deuteronomy 6:5]
 - Exodus 20:3,5 “You shall have no other gods before me. . . . You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God.”
 - Proverbs 29:25, “Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe”

DISPLACED LOVE (8)

- Matthew 22:36-37, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. ...” [from Deuteronomy 6:5]
 - לֵבָב (‘‘heart’’) in Deuteronomy 6:5 refers to the seat of the intellect, equivalent to the mind or rational part of humankind.
 - נַפְשׁוֹ (‘‘soul’’) refers to the invisible part of a person, including his will and sensibilities.
 - מְאֹד (‘‘strength’’) refers to a man’s entire physical side with all its functions and capacities.

DISPLACED LOVE (9)

- Exodus 20:3,5 “You shall have no other gods before me. . . . You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God”
 - This is the first of the Ten Commandments
 - It is the crux of the special relationship between God & man
 - It comes before loving parents, spouses, children or anything else
 - God put this commandment in place because He knew that the Israelites were living in places where other gods were worshipped

DISPLACED LOVE (10)

- Proverbs 29:25, “Fear of man (fear of missing out on fun) will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe”
 - “Snare” is a trap.
 - Electronic games act like traps because
 - They give instant gratification
 - They are designed to excite the pleasure centers in the brain
 - When these pleasure centers in the brain are excited, they create a desire for repeating the experience
 - Desire for repeating the experience → habit-formation
 - Consequently, the child has trouble “letting go”

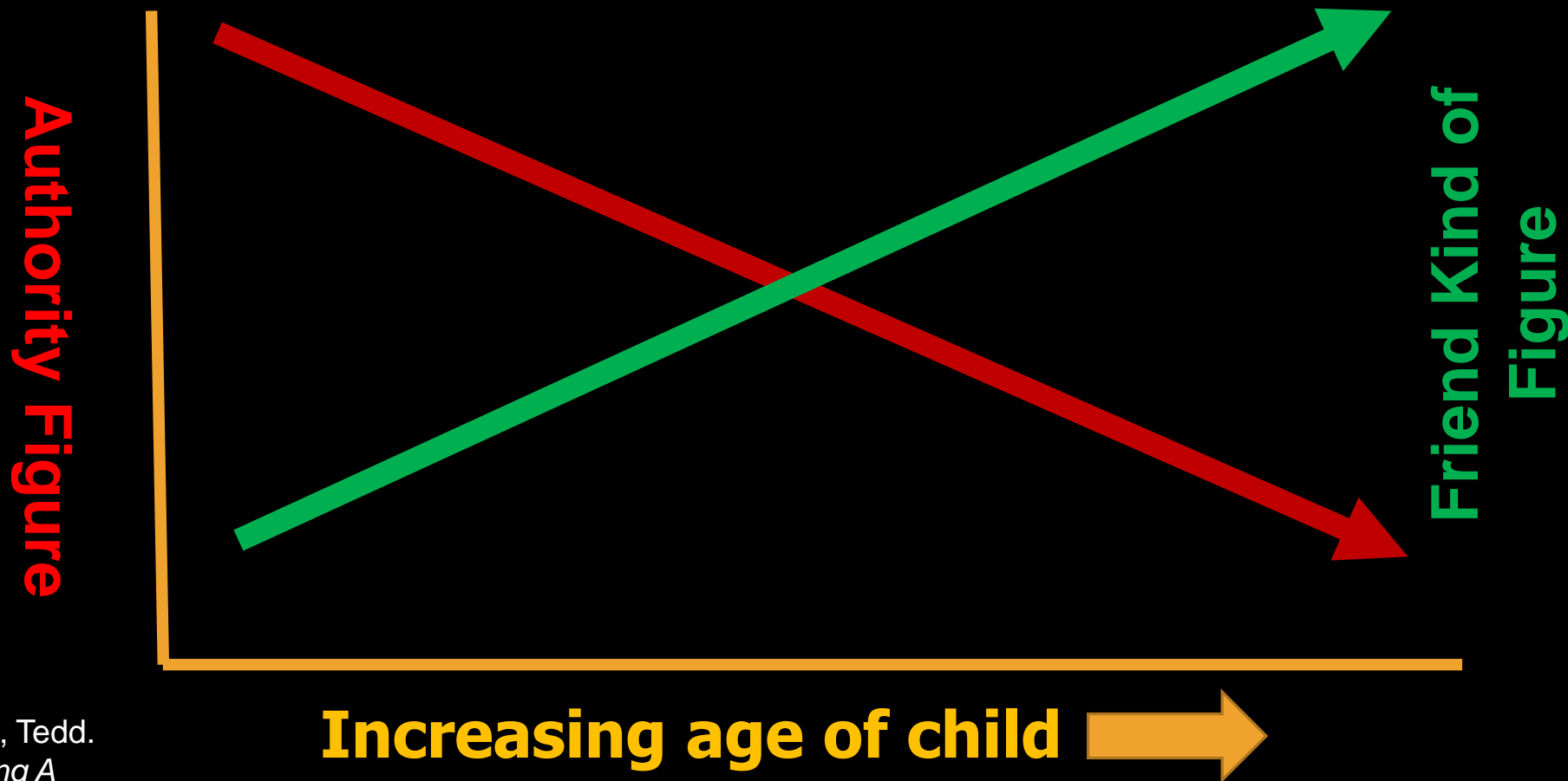
DISPLACED LOVE (11)

- Discerning whether activities constitute displaced love is a *gray area* requiring mature judgment and wisdom
 - Not amenable to **black-and-white**, fixed rules
 - Parents must guide their children towards this discernment

PARENTS MUST CHANGE THEIR WAY OF RELATING TO CHILDREN AS THEY GROW

- Parents must change their way of relating to the child when guiding their children to discern when **displaced love** occurs
 - Discernment required to determine & establish boundaries for **displaced love**
 - Sometimes indulgences of **displaced love** (playing games beyond time limit) are acceptable and can be compensated for by abstinences of **displaced love** (playing games below time limit)
 - Discernment requires constant self-examination to evaluate transgressions of **displaced love**

PARENTS MUST CHANGE THEIR WAY OF RELATING TO CHILDREN AS THEY GROW



From Tripp, Tedd.
*Shepherding A
Child's Heart.* Fig. 6

PARENTS MUST CHANGE THEIR WAY OF RELATING TO CHILDREN AS THEY GROW

- Teaching when and how **displaced love** occurs must be done through guidance rather than strict obedience to fixed rules
 - When children reach 11-13 yr. olds, methods of discipline & learning effective for younger children no longer are effective.
 - Some pre-teens & most teens no longer want to feel patronized by adults
 - Teens tend to be impulsive, take risks and are more sensitive to peers than parents

PARENTS MUST CHANGE THEIR WAY OF RELATING TO CHILDREN AS THEY GROW

- Authority Figure vs. Friend Kind of Figure
 - Authority Figure
 - *“I’m the expert so I know what’s good for you. You must do this.”*
 - Friend Kind of Figure
 - *“Let me explain the benefits and detriments of _____”*
- Psychologist David Yeager at Univ. of Texas at Austin found the second way of speaking to 18-19 yr. olds to be 2x as effective in getting their compliance.

PARENTS MUST CHANGE THEIR WAY OF RELATING TO CHILDREN AS THEY GROW

- The ultimate in a relationship is a friendship – not an authoritarian situation
- Jesus recognized His relationship with the disciples had changed when He said, “I no longer call you, δούλους* because a δούλος does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends . . .” (John 15:15)

* δούλους is Greek for “servant/slave” in relationship to an authority figure

COUNSELING HOMEWORK-5B

- Answer the following questions:
 - What is an idol?
 - What do atheists worship if not God?
 - Is success good?
 - How can a good thing become an idol?
- Reading assignments:
 - Ed Welch's *When People Are Big and God is Small*, chapters 1-7.
 - Be prepared to discuss contents at next session.
- Continue with time limits and curfews on game playing
- Attend a bible study or church fellowship group
- Attend Sunday worship and Sunday School
- Serve in a church ministry

REVIEW (2)

- What are some modern-day idols people worship?
- How do we fear modern-day idols?
- How do modern-day idols differ from Old Testament idols?
- Can a “good thing” be an idol?
- How does a good thing become an idol?
- How does an idol become a “snare”?



CONTACT INFORMATION

Quon Kwan

qykwan@gmail.com