Expert Interview: Mark Laaser, PhD

Teleseminar—May 6, 2009

Email questions to: mark@recoveryremixed.com

(write “QUESTION” in subject line of the email)

Call information:
Conference Dial-in Number: (218) 844-8230
Participant Access Code: 941512 # (pound key)
Call time: 12pm Pacific, 2pm Central, 3pm Eastern

What you will learn in today’s call:

- The scope of the problem of sexual addiction in the church today
- What pastors and church staff members need to do for their own sexual purity and well-being
- How churches can best minister to people who are struggling with addictive sexual behavior

About your host:

Mark Brouwer offers teaching and workshops in a variety of settings about subjects relating to healthy sexuality, overcoming compulsive behavior, sustainable leadership, and the spiritual dynamics of recovery. He also provides leadership coaching for pastors, and recovery coaching for men dealing with compulsive sexual behaviors. This coaching is primarily done in group contexts - either in person, or in teleconferences.

Mark is a pastor with 15 years experience as founding and senior pastor of two church startups. He is currently the director of recoveryremixed.com, an organization devoted to applying the timeless wisdom of recovery to today’s challenges.
Mark Laaser

Dr. Mark Laaser holds a PhD in religion and psychology from the University of Iowa and an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is an internationally known author and speaker who has written six books, including *Healing the Wounds of Sexual Addiction*, *Talking to Your Kids About Sex*, and *The Pornography Trap*. He is also an adjunct faculty member at several graduate schools. He and Debbie started Faithful and True Ministries to counsel couples healing from sexual addiction.

History of Faithful and True Ministries

Mark and Debbie Laaser began their journey in this field in 1987 when Mark was intervened on for his own sexual addiction. After completing in-patient treatment and early intensive counseling, Mark began working with Dr. Patrick Carnes, the founder of the field of sexual addiction, at Golden Valley Health Center in Golden Valley, Minnesota. This work led to the publication of his first book that was called *The Secret Sin*, then renamed *Faithful & True* and is now called in revised form, *Healing the Wounds of Sexual Addiction*.

In 1992 Mark left Golden Valley and, together with Debbie, founded Mark Laaser Consulting, Inc. which is now Faithful and True Ministries, Inc. Mark began to travel around the country speaking, teaching, and consulting with various hospitals and organizations. This work also led to the publication of seven more books, including *Talking to Your Kids About Sex* and *The Pornography Trap*.

Mark’s original counseling practice was opened in 1995. It steadily grew to become a full time practice serving the sexually broken. In 2000, the Laasers began support groups for men, women and couples. In 2004 Debbie Laaser transitioned from the company that she had owned for 20 years and began working full time with Mark at the center.

In May of 2005, Mark and Debbie moved into their new counseling center, The Laaser Center for the Family. Eight other therapists have joined them at the Center, independently offering services for individuals and couples. The newly decorated, serene environment offers a place for gentle healing and growth—a vision of the Laasers for several years.

In February of 2008, Debbie’s book, *Shattered Vows*, was released providing help and hope for women struggling with sexual acting out or addiction in their relationships. Later in 2008, *The Seven Desires of Every Heart*, co-authored by Mark and Debbie, was released. Mark and Debbie travel around the country and world, speaking and teaching about sexual purity and “The Seven Desires of Every Heart”.

www.faithfulandtrueministries.com
RESOURCE 1

Helping the Sexual Strugglers

A training event for pastors, church staff, and lay ministry leaders

June 4, 2009

Changes in society and the advent of the Internet have led to an epidemic of sexual struggle around the world. All are vulnerable, huge numbers of people are struggling, and for many the struggle has developed into a full-blown addiction. Church leaders are looking for ways of helping people caught in the web of compulsive sexual behavior. Our vision at Recovery Remixed is to provide teaching and guidance not only to sexual strugglers, but also to the ministry leaders who seek to help them. So we are jointly sponsoring this training event with Faithful and True Ministries for pastors, church staff, and ministry leaders.

Many people needlessly suffer because the church leaders providing teaching and care to them have limited knowledge about sex addiction /compulsive behavior and inadequate approaches to dealing with it. We want to present the findings from the latest research and our experience in working with strugglers, in the hope that more can be done to stem the tide of this growing problem.

Register today for this important training event for pastors and church leaders.

Cost: $59

To find out more, visit: http://lastingleaders.com/?p=113
Three-day Men’s Workshop

Men’s Workshops are three day events of teaching and small group interaction led by Dr. Mark Laaser, the Christian leader in the field. The focus of the workshop is not just about strategies to stop acting out behaviors but on understanding the individual wounds and thought patterns that drive them.

What happens at a workshop? The workshop format is flexible, depending on the needs of the group (which can range from 10 to 25 men), but includes a mixture of lecture, group discussion, and individual reflection time and assignments. Participants break into smaller groups, with each group led by a trained facilitator. Mark Laaser is the primary workshop presenter. Mark Brouwer and additional therapists also participate in workshop sessions depending upon the size of the group.

Who should go to the workshop? These workshops are for men struggling with sexual behaviors that they are having trouble stopping. These men may or may not see themselves as sexual “addicts” (a term that is often misunderstood). Men at workshops may be dealing with a wide variety of sexual behaviors — ranging from fantasy, pornography use, and masturbation to affairs, sexual encounters, and a wide variety of fetish behaviors.

Dates for upcoming workshops:
- May 21 - 23, 2009
- June 18 - 20, 2009
- July 23 - 25, 2009
- August 13 - 15, 2009
- September 10 - 12, 2009

To find out more, visit:

http://www.faithfulandtrueministries.com/workshops/workshops-for-men/
I plan to conduct teleseminars like this twice each month. One seminar each month will be specifically for pastors and church leaders, and one for a general audience interested in learning more about recovery from sexual struggle. My plan is that the live teleseminars will be free, and recordings will be available for purchase. I am interested in hearing from you about topics you’d like to hear addressed. Here are the dates currently on the schedule:

Teleseminars—helping people find recovery from sexual struggle

- Thursday, May 21 (8:00pm, c.s.t.) What wives of sexual strugglers need to know
- Thursday, June 18 (8:00pm c.s.t.) Expert Interview
- Thursday, July 23 (8:00pm c.s.t.) Seven things people do to mess up their recovery

Teleseminars for Christian Leaders

- Wednesday, June 10  Why ministry to sexual strugglers is so hard, and what to do about it
- Wednesday, July 22  Expert Interview
- Wednesday, August 19 Five ways the church is making the epidemic of sex addiction worse

(no website URL yet!)