



SESSION 3 — The Sex Supply: Human Trafficking - Pastor Keith -

This issue is creating a growing response of appropriate indignation— not just from Christians who are being motivated by their commitment to the gospel and slavery’s absence of grace, but also by non-Christians who, because of the image of God in them through creation, know the inherent worth and dignity of every human life.

“Organizations like International Justice Mission, Polaris Project, and others combat sex trafficking and care for and rehabilitate victims. Celebrities such as Ashton Kutcher, Demi Moore, Susan Sarandon, and Daryl Hannah are activists. *Taken* and *Trade* are examples of popular movies that depict the exploitation and horror of sex trafficking. Authors like Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, Carolyn James, Kathryn Farr, Patricia McCormick, Siddharth Kara, Kevin Bales, E. Benjamin Skinner, Victor Malarek, and now Daniel Walker, with his book *God in a Brothel: An Undercover Journey into Sex Trafficking*, are informing millions of readers about sex trafficking and inspiring them to respond.”¹ Most recently, former White Sox star Adam LaRoche has raised awareness through his own participation in rescuing sex slaves.²

As we consider this issue, Christians must guard against two errors. First, we must guard ourselves from self-righteous indignation, because apart from the grace of God our heart is “deceitful above all things and desperately sick (who can understand it?)” (Jeremiah 17:9)! There is enough evil within us (i.e., total depravity), that if God wanted to judge us, He need only turn us over to our own way (Isaiah 53:6; Proverbs 14:12; 16:25; Romans 1:18-32). “But for the grace of God, there go I” (1 Corinthians 15:10), and apart from God’s initiating kindness, we are His enemies (Romans 5:6-10).

Secondly, Christians must guard against “hollowing-out” social justice. We can do this in two ways. First, in our mercy ministries and campaigns for social justice, we can fail to maintain an appropriate and submissive balance with the larger goal of spiritual health and eternal redemption through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Secondly, we may divorce our seemingly genuine concern for social justice from personal holiness, hypocritically calling out sin in others while overlooking it in ourselves or even engaging in behavior that feeds injustice and oppression.³

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Fundamentally, it is slavery and exploitation. Human trafficking has three facets to its definition:⁴

- 1. Action** — ...the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of humans (often women and children)...
- 2. Means** — ...by force, fraud, or coercion⁵ (with the exception of minors, who are considered victims regardless if these means are present)..
 - *Force*: physical or sexual abuse; restrictions on movement and communication with friends and family; constant surveillance; lack of medical treatment or reproductive healthcare
 - *Fraud*: false promises of a different job; misrepresentation of the working conditions, wages, and immigration benefits of the job; altered or fake contracts; non-payment, underpayment or confiscation of wages; visa fraud
 - *Coercion*: threats of harm to the victim or the victim’s family or friends; threats of deportation confiscation of passports and visas; debt increased through various fees to the club or driving networks
- 3. Purpose** — ...most commonly for the purpose of *sexual slavery* (including, but not limited to, forced sexual labor⁶ in brothels, escort services, fake massage businesses, strip clubs, and streets; pornography; forced marriages and harems; rape camps; and sexual tourism), *forced labor*, *organ/tissue harvesting*, or *adoption*.

Human trafficking can occur within a country or trans-nationally. Human trafficking is a crime against the person because of the violation of the victim's rights of movement through coercion and because of their commercial exploitation. Human trafficking is the trade in people, and does not necessarily involve the movement of the person from one place to another or physical restraint, bodily harm, or physical force against the victim.

HOW WIDESPREAD IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?⁷

Statistics are often hard to come by in this field. Trafficking is an illegal industry so finding out just how many victims there are annually is difficult.

In 2013, the total annual revenue for trafficking in people was estimated to be \$32 billion (\$99 billion per ILO⁸).⁹ Human trafficking is a \$9.8 billion industry per year in the United States. The International Labor Organization estimates that forced labor and human trafficking combine as a \$150 billion industry worldwide.

Human trafficking is one of the most profitable and fastest-growing businesses for organized crime, second only to drug trafficking and recently surpassing weapons trafficking.

Traffickers are estimated to currently be exploiting 20.9 million victims worldwide (80% as sexual slaves; 5.5 million children). That means there are more slaves today than were seized from Africa in four centuries of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Between 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, 50% of whom are under 18-years-old and 70+% of whom are trafficked into the sex industry.

There are an estimated 1.5 million victims in North America alone (roughly the population of Indianapolis). It is estimated that between 18,000 and 20,000 victims are trafficked into the United States every year. An estimated 100,000-300,000 youth are sexually exploited in the US each year. Despite growing awareness about this crime, human trafficking continues to go underreported due to its covert nature, misconceptions about its definition, and a lack of awareness about its indicators.

The most common destinations for victims of human trafficking in 2007 were Thailand, Japan, Israel, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Turkey and the US. The report lists Thailand, China, Nigeria, Albania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine as major sources of trafficked persons.

For most of human history slaves were expensive, the average cost being around the equivalent of \$40,000. Today, the average slave costs around \$90. A 2003 study in the Netherlands found that, on average, a single sex slave earned her pimp at least \$250,000 a year. In the US, a pimp can make \$150,000-\$200,000 per child each year and the average pimp has 4 to 6 girls (U.S. Justice Department, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children).

According to Shared Hope International, children exploited through prostitution report they typically are given a quota by their trafficker/pimp of 10 to 15 buyers per night, though some service providers report girls having been sold to as many as 45 buyers in a night at peak demand times, such as during a sports event or convention. Utilizing a conservative estimate, a domestic minor sex trafficking victim who is rented for sex acts with five different men per night, for five nights per week, for an average of five years, would be raped by 6,000 buyers during the course of her victimization through prostitution.

WHO IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING?¹⁰

80% of trafficked persons are women and children. The average age of entry into prostitution for a child victim in the United States is 12-14 years of age.

There are three groups that are particularly susceptible to human trafficking.

1. **Runaway and homeless youth** — One in three teens on the street will be lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home (National Runaway Hotline). A study in Chicago found that 56 percent of prostituted women were initially runaway youth and similar numbers have been identified for male populations. According to the US Department of Justice, upwards of 300,000 American children at any given time may be

at risk of exploitation due to factors such as drug use, homelessness, or other factors connected with increased risk for commercial sexual exploitation. These teens often flee exploitation in their homes (i.e., sexual abuse) only to find it on the streets (i.e., sexual trafficking).

2. **Foreign nationals** — Those who travel in other countries, especially those countries identified as heavily trafficked regions, are often more susceptible to trafficking and exploitation (especially young women). They may be abducted, or they may be deceptively recruited to leave their home and travel to another country for promised work, income, housing, food, and community. Recruiting traffickers leverage the high cost of their traveling expenses to the US, the non-portability of many work visas, and the lack of familiarity with surroundings, laws and rights, language fluency, and cultural understanding in order to control and manipulate victims.
3. **Victims of violence and abuse** — Those who have experienced violence and abuse in the past are more vulnerable to future exploitation, as the psychological effect of trauma is often long-lasting and challenging to overcome. Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, war and conflict, or social discrimination may be targeted by traffickers, who recognize the vulnerabilities left by these prior abuses.

The US Department of Justice has identified the top twenty human trafficking jurisdictions in the US as Houston, El Paso, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, Charlotte, Miami, Las Vegas, New York, Long Island, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Phoenix, Richmond, San Diego, San Francisco, St Louis, Seattle, and Tampa.

HOW CAN WE END HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

We can't! Only Jesus can and will! Therefore, Christians are really the only ones that can bring real and robust hope to this terrible issue. The stats and stories from the darkness of human trafficking are horrifying, but God's Word teaches at least four hopeful truths that are important to believe and proclaim.

1. **God's good sovereignty** (sovereignty—Genesis 50:21; Deuteronomy 32:39; 1 Samuel 12:6; Job 1:21-22; 2:10; 42:2; Psalm 105:17; 115:3; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 45:7; Amos 3:6; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11; goodness—Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31 [chapter 3]; Psalm 16:2; 34:10; 84:11; 86:15; 119:68; Luke 18:19; Romans 8:28; 3 John 11; key example: the cross!)
2. **God's vindictive judgment** (Psalm 73; Matthew 25:41-46; Romans 12:19; Revelation 21:8)

Evil and violence are not the final word. They are not capable of creating or ultimately defining reality. That is God's prerogative alone. However, evil and violence can pervert, distort, and destroy. They are parasitic on the original good of God's creation. In this way, evil serves as the backdrop on the stage where God's redemption shines with even greater brilliance and pronounced drama.¹¹

3. **God's fellowship in suffering** — God sees our suffering (Genesis 16:6-14; Exodus 2:23-25; Psalm 10:14; 33:13), and in Jesus He feels (sympathizes with and expresses solidarity in) our suffering (Psalm 34:18; 68:5; Hebrews 2:18; 4:15), can carry our suffering (Isaiah 53:4-7; 1 Peter 2:18-25; 5:7), and will be with us to fellowship with us and help us in suffering (Psalm 23:4-6; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 2:18; Philippians 3:10). Christianity alone offers a robust resource to us in our suffering—the cross. Whatever the cross means, at the very least it declares that God cares about our suffering.
4. **God's gracious deliverance** — But we know, of course, that the cross means more than that. Human trafficking in all its complexity is just one of the myriad consequences of sin in our world today (cf. Romans 8:22). Jesus came, not just to identify in solidarity with those who are suffering, but to rescue them from the source of their suffering. Because He broke the power of sin and death in His perfect life, substitutionary suffering, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection, Jesus alone can provide deliverance, now and for eternity. In His grace, He is able to provide escape, endurance, or healing. Even in the midst of indescribable pain and incomprehensible tragedy, there is a saving purpose (cf. Romans 8:18-30).

As we seek to know, show, and speak such hope, we can do so through four responses to human trafficking.

1. Education

a. Know God's Word

- *The dignity of man made in God's image* (Genesis 1:26)
- *Our responsibility to love our neighbor* (Matthew 7:12; 22:39-40; Luke 10:25-37) *and enemy* (Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:18-21; 1 Peter 2:18-25)
- *Our responsibility to promote justice for the oppressed* (Exodus 22:21-24; Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 24:11-12; 31:8-9; Isaiah 59:15-16)

b. Report Trafficking

- *Phone Hotline* — Via the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (traffickingresourcecenter.org), you can call 1-888-373-7888 to report a tip or request services.
- *Texting Hotlines* — Via the BeFree Texting helpline (<http://bit.ly/1L3E0yl>), victims can text to BeFree (233733) to reach a call specialist who will help them escape or connect them to services in their area.

c. Know the Signs¹²

- *Common Work and Living Conditions*
 - Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
 - Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager
 - Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
 - Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
 - Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
 - Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off

- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque, boarded up, or barred windows; barbed wire; security cameras; etc.)
- *Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior*
 - Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
 - Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
 - Avoids eye contact
- *Poor Physical Health*
 - Lacks medical care and/or is denied medical services by employer
 - Appears malnourished or shows signs of repeated exposure to harmful chemicals
 - Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture
 - Has sexually transmitted diseases
- *Lack of Control*
 - Has few or no personal possessions or has excessive unexplained valuables
 - Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
 - Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
 - Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating) or has scripted, restricted, or vague speech

- *Other*
 - History of running away from home
 - Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
 - Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or of what city he/she is in
 - Disorientation and loss of sense of time
 - Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
 - Dishonest about age
 - Carries hotel keys
 - Tattoos of traffickers name or symbol

In one successful execution of Truckers Against Trafficking training, a truck driver called 911 after suspecting human trafficking in a particular situation, and his phone call precipitated the arrest and subsequent conviction of 31 traffickers, the release of 9 people from the sex industry, and the fall of an organized crime ring that had been active in 13 US states.

2. Prevention¹³

Human trafficking is a market-driven criminal industry that is based on the principles of supply and demand,¹⁴ like drugs or arms trafficking. Many factors make children and adults vulnerable to human trafficking. However, human trafficking does not exist solely because many people are vulnerable to exploitation. Instead, human trafficking is fueled by a **demand** for cheap labor services and for commercial sex. To ultimately solve the problem of human trafficking, it is essential (1) to address these demand-driven factors, as well as (2) to alter the overall market incentives of **high-profit and low-risk** that traffickers currently exploit.

a. **Government can help address the low-risk incentives.**

Human traffickers perceive there to be little risk or deterrence to affect their criminal operations. While investigations, prosecutions and penalties have increased

throughout recent years, many traffickers still believe the high profit margin to be worth the risk of detection. Factors that add to low risk include: lack of or minimal federal and state laws and penalties, lack of international cooperation,¹⁵ lack of government and law enforcement training, low community awareness, ineffective or unused laws, lack of law enforcement investigation, scarce resources for victim recovery services, and social blaming of victims.

b. **Individuals can help address the high-profit incentives.**

(1) When individuals are willing to buy commercial sex, they create a market of demand and make it profitable for traffickers to sexually exploit children and adults. (2) When consumers are willing to buy goods and services from industries that rely on forced labor, they create a profit incentive for labor traffickers to maximize revenue with minimal production costs.

• *Specific Application #1: Pornography*

In a day of unprecedented moral revolution in our society, we must be aware of how sex has grown into a monstrous idol. James 1:13-15 (cf. Ecclesiastes 1:8; 2 Peter 2:8) warns us about the “diminishing returns” and growing appetite of lust, and this has played itself out in American culture over the last 50+ years—what our parents would have been ashamed to watch in their living rooms, we hardly blink at in the movie theater. Sex has become a humorous game and a coveted idol. And because of the increased sexuality in entertainment (which simply draws out and feeds our sexually broken hearts), women have been objectified, the pornography industry has exploded, and human trafficking has silently spread in order to supply the demand and enjoy the “filthy lucre” of the sex industry. So, Christians, we must battle exploitation first in our hearts and in our homes by fighting it with our eyes and desires! Consider the following excerpt from a Desiring God article.¹⁶

As evil and degrading as pornography is, here's another reason to never look at it. Porn is part of the problem. If you are looking at pornography, you are perpetuating the satanic industry of sex trafficking.

I recently read a disturbing article in the Journal of Human Rights and Civil Society, which is a publication of the Protection Project based at Johns Hopkins University. The title of the article is "The Slave and the Porn Star: Sexual Trafficking and Pornography." The authors show various connections between pornography and sexual exploitation. Many of the individuals who appear in pornography are slaves. They have been trafficked, drugged, manipulated in some way, and are forced to be part of this wicked business.

Then there are the forces of supply and demand, and the way that pornography creates more and more demand for the commercial sex industry. Pornography is like the gateway drug. People get addicted, and then they want something more. Pornography fuels prostitution (heightening the demand for prostitutes), and a higher demand for prostitutes means more lucrative opportunities for pimps, which means more women and children exploited by them for these purposes. So if you're looking at porn, even if you're not paying for it, you're showing the advertisers and producers of pornography and all those involved in the sex business that demand is high, which then motivates them to shame and exploit even more people.

Think about that the next time you're tempted to click on that website. Your momentary "pleasure" is contributing to the absolute devastation of women and girls and boys around the world.

- *Specific Application #2: Families and Dads*

We need dads who will take the initiative in their homes to love, protect, and disciple their families as they have been called to do (Ephesians 5:25-29, 33; 6:4; Colossians 3:19, 21). God forbid that our fathers contribute to human trafficking in their own homes by exploiting their children sexually or otherwise through neglect and abuse! May children in America, especially in our Christian homes, never need to go (run) anywhere else to hear and feel that they are loved, both by their parents and their Creator. And may they also come to witness that their fathers walk in their integrity in their viewing habits (Job 31:1; Psalm 26:11; 101:3) and sexual behavior (Proverbs 5:18; Hebrews 13:4). Dads, may God be our portion (Psalm 16:5; 73:26; Lamentation 3:24), and may we find our delight in loving Him (Psalm 16:11; 42:1; 63:1) and loving others. "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).

- c. **Businesses can help address the support network.**¹⁷

Traffickers use many business industries to help hide human trafficking crimes (e.g., imprisoning, advertising, transporting, financing, etc.) from authorities and increase the risk or difficulty for a potential victim to reach out for help. These businesses may be completely unaware of how they are being used by traffickers, or they may be aware but complacent because the profits generated by that illicit business outweighs any reservations they may have about their participation. Businesses offering these services have an important role in the fight against human trafficking. Understanding human trafficking and how their business model may be utilized by traffickers seeking to exploit others is a first step for effective change. Businesses in these industries have a unique chance to identify victims and report situations of trafficking. Furthermore, by strengthening internal processes, policies, and transparency, businesses have the opportunity to make it

more difficult for traffickers to use their business for criminal activities like human trafficking. By isolating traffickers and increasingly denying opportunities to work through legitimate businesses, trafficking operations will be riskier and more difficult to maintain.

3. Intervention

a. **Physical**

- *Government*¹⁸ — rescue efforts, prosecution of traffickers, intensify legal penalties for criminals, etc.
- *Organizations* — National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Polaris, END IT Movement, Exodus Cry, Rapha House, Salvation Army, World Vision, Ascent 121 (Indiana), etc.

b. **Spiritual**

- Evangelism — In all our campaigns for social justice, we must remember that this is our most important goal.¹⁹ In reality, we must think bigger even than “ending” human trafficking—we must think eternity. To deliver people from human trafficking (by either prosecuting the traffickers or rescuing the victims), but to lose them to an eternal Christless hell, would be an infinitely worse tragedy (Mark 8:36)!

Prayer — We should consider the following three groups when we pray about the issue of human trafficking.

- *Pray for ourselves* — that we (especially our women and children) would be protected from exploitation; that God would purge the sinful lusts that drive such exploitation
- *Pray for the oppressed* — for their physical and spiritual rescue in spite of all the difficulties that would inhibit both
- *Pray for the oppressors* — for their salvation (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:1-10; 2 Peter 3:9, 15)

A Desiring God article applies the simple truths of the gospel to this issue and helpfully reminds us that we need to pray for (and evangelize) the oppressors, as we do the oppressed. Indeed, Jesus regularly interacted with the despised outcasts of society (e.g., the tax collectors and morally reprobate) inasmuch that he earned the nickname “friend of sinners” (Matthew 9:11; 11:19). The contemporary form of these hated people would perhaps be today’s child molesters and human traffickers. While saying, “Love your enemies,” is one thing, Jesus did just that from the cross (Luke 23:34), and you and I are both eternally changed because of that, for we were His enemies (cf. Luke 23:39-43 [Mark 15:32b]; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; 2 Peter 2:7-8)!

An amazing thing about the gospel of Jesus Christ is that it’s a message not only for the oppressed, but also for the oppressors; not only to the victim, but to the perpetrators. Remember, “Love your enemies.” And don’t forget that God saved Saul of Tarsus, who was persecuting the church. Our gut response would be, “Free the slaves, and to hell with the cruel criminals who are keeping them in bondage.” But the gospel goes beyond that. ...

In reality, the human trafficker is a slave as well. The predators are slaves to lust, power, money, and all kinds of perversion. The pimps, the predators, the pedophiles, the traffickers, the enslavers are shackled with bonds of a different kind. So, as Christians, we ought to pray for them. We ought to pray for the sex tourists who travel the world exploiting women and children. We ought to pray for the business owners who are taking advantage of their employees. The gospel is a message of hope for all who will repent and believe.²⁰

- *Action* — We’ll consider these thoughts under the final point of response: restoration.

4. Restoration²¹

a. **Emergency Services**

- Crisis Intervention and Counseling
- Emergency Shelter and Referrals
- Urgent Medical Care
- Safety Planning
- Food and Clothing

b. **Social Services**

- Case Management
- Interpretation
- Housing
- Job Training and Education
- Court Accompaniment
- Employment Assistance
- Transportation
- Healthcare

c. **Legal Services**

- Immigration Status
- Criminal Case Services
- Civil Case Services
- Witness Protection
- Family Court Services
- Legal Representation
- Vacatur of Convictions

What are your particular gifts and abilities that you could apply to the problem of human trafficking? There are many different sides to this, and many ways to address it. There's the political aspect. We need stricter laws against these crimes. Maybe you could get involved by contacting law-makers (or becoming a law-maker) and advocating for this issue. Lawyers need to vigorously prosecute these cases. Police officers need to know how to deal with these cases, so that a girl doesn't go to jail because she's assumed to be a voluntary prostitute, when in reality she's a sex slave. Business professionals can address the

issues of poverty that make many susceptible to being exploited. Doctors and nurses can help to care for victims of human trafficking.

These victims experience post-traumatic stress disorder, STDs, drug dependency due to forced drugging, and all kinds of psychological disorders. From the social services standpoint, help is needed to get victims back on their feet, and help is needed in preventive education in schools and neighborhoods. There need to be women who can mentor women and girls who have escaped slavery. The gospel is the only path to true healing.²²

CONCLUSION

Many of us have seen the movie, *Taken*, in which human trafficking and sexual slavery were unveiled on the big screen. Liam Neeson plays Bryan Mills, a retired CIA agent whose daughter is kidnapped by a group of human traffickers while traveling in Paris, France. Possessing a "particular set of skills,"²³ Bryan hastens to Paris where he tracks down the traffickers and rescues his daughter.

It's almost impossible to watch that movie, being nauseated by the horror of the few glances it gives you into modern-day slavery, and not cheer on the vengeance of a wrathful father. Confronting corrupt law enforcement officials, evil and unfeeling traffickers, and shameless and degenerate political figures, Bryan turns the tables on this evil and leaves a wake of destruction among those who are used to destroying. The viewer ends the movie feeling as if in some small way, right has prevailed and justice has been mediated.

It's easy to consider this topic and wish for more Bryan Mills—those who would bypass the red tape of political measures, take the law into their own hands, and bring justice where there is none. While such a yearning is well founded, it is good for us to remember that there is a Rescuer who is altogether greater than any rogue CIA agent—Jesus Christ! And He doesn't bypass the law; instead, He will finally and fully judge according to His law, and no wrong will go unpunished. He will make all things right, end all oppression, mete out vindication and judgment, and eternally rule with unquestioned righteousness.

And until that future judgment, He is not standing idly by, closing His eyes and plugging His ears to the plight of the oppressed. No! Instead, with eyes and ears open wide, He feels our pain, for He is “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3; Hebrews 4:15). He has entered human existence and personally tasted its unfair suffering and bitter misery. He knows the sinfulness and brokenness of human life better than anyone else, for “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:21). The totally sinless and perfectly innocent God took upon Himself all our sin and its corruption, paid the law’s death penalty for sin (Romans 6:23), and then rose from the dead to prove that He really could rescue us from the destruction and death of sin (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57). And now He sends us to be His ambassadors of mercy and justice.

And so, better than any vigilante, Jesus actually offers hope to both the oppressed and the oppressor, for He deals with human trafficking at its root. He triumphs over the evils of sin (Genesis 3:15; Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:20; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15)! So, be educated and engaged in this particular manifestation of sin’s evil, but don’t be dismayed—Jesus is the victor!

In the meantime, as we tearfully and patiently wait on the patience of God (2 Peter 3:9, 15) before He judges this world in vindictive and judicial vengeance (Acts 17:31), let us remind ourselves of the tender truth of God’s character:

But You do see, for You note mischief and vexation, that You may take it into Your hands; to You the helpless commits himself; You have been the helper of the fatherless. (Psalm 10:14)

Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The Lord saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then His own arm brought him salvation, and His righteousness upheld him. (Isaiah 59:15-16)

REFERENCES

General Information

- *END IT Movement video* — <https://youtu.be/qMyExi2q-ZI>
- *Sexual Slavery Wikipedia article* — http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_slavery
- *Human Trafficking Wikipedia article* — http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking
- *9 Things You Should Know About Human Trafficking* — <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-human-trafficking>
- *9 Things You Should Know About Pimps and Sex Traffickers* — <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-pimps-and-sex-traffickers>
- *Super Bowl Trafficking Sting* — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOF9cYSS014>
- *Human Trafficking Into and Within the US* — <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/humantrafficking/litrev/>
- *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000* — http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victims_of_Trafficking_and_Violence_Protection_Act_of_2000

Statistics

- *NHTRC Hotline Statistics* — <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/states>
- *The Covering House Statistics* — <http://thecoveringhouse.org>
- *Ascent 121 Statistics* — http://ascent121.org/?page_id=7

Biblical Viewpoint

- *What Does the Bible Teach About Human Trafficking* — <http://www.gotquestions.org/human-trafficking.html>
- *What Christians Do About Modern-Day Slavery* — <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-christians-do-about-modern-day-slavery>

- *Social Justice and Young Evangelicals: Encouragement and Concern* — <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/social-justice-and-young-evangelicals-encouragement-and-concern>

Organizations

- *National Human Trafficking Resource Center* — <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org>
- *Polaris Project* — <http://www.polarisproject.org>
- *END IT Movement* — <https://secure.enditmovement.com>
- *Rapha House* — <http://www.raphahouse.org>
- *Exodus Cry* — <http://exoduscry.com>
- *World Vision* — <http://www.worldvision.org/our-impact/child-protection>
- *Salvation Army* — <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/combating-human-trafficking>; <http://www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/antitrafficking>
- *Concerned Women For America* — <http://www.cwfa.org/about/issues/sexual-exploitation>
- *Ascent 121, an Indiana-based organization* — <http://ascent121.org>
- *The Julian Center, an Indiana-based organization* — <http://www.juliancenter.org/Services/Human-Trafficking.aspx>
- *Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans* — <http://www.indianaagainsttrafficking.org>

Resources

- *Sex Trafficking Victim Outreach Card* — <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/Sex%20Trafficking%20Victim%20Outreach%20Card.pdf>
- *Rape for Profit Documentary* — <http://rapeforprofitfilm.com>
- *Nefarious Documentary* — <http://nefariousdocumentary.com>
- *Unearthed* — <http://unearthedpictures.org>
- *Hearts of Men Movie* — <http://www.heartsofmenmovie.com>

- *The Slave Next Door book* — <http://amzn.to/1L3Fysb>
- *God In A Brothel book* — http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/god_in_a_brothel

ENDNOTES

¹ *God In A Brothel*, article on The Gospel Coalition website — <http://bit.ly/1FYAVZQ>

² http://espn.go.com/mlb/story/_id/15159499/adam-laroche-goes-deep-decision-walk

³ *Social Justice and Young Evangelicals: Encouragement and Concern* is a very helpful article/video that discusses the balance between social reform and gospel witness — <http://bit.ly/1FIPXLN>. As a preview, here is a summary of the video as quoted by the article:

In this new video, John Piper talks with Matt Chandler and David Platt about this trendy, vital, and often blurry topic. Piper has contended that Christians “should care about all suffering, especially eternal suffering,” Similar, Platt notes, is his own church’s informal motto: “As we work for justice in the world, we speak clearly about the Judge of the world.” Opportunities for social action will inevitably spring up as members are holistically discipled in the faith according to Matthew 28:19. “Church elders should so minister a robust gospel—a full-blooded, deep, sanctifying, transforming, humbling, radical-making gospel,” Piper says, “that these sorts of [social justice ventures] naturally happen.” As Platt adds, “A robust commitment to the gospel and the Great Commission will inevitably lead to encounters with the impoverished, the orphaned, and so forth.” “Be where you are” is the drum Chandler beats at The Village Church. “If you’re doing gospel ministry where the Lord has placed you,” he observes, “there will be plenty to do in terms of justice and gospel ministry.” It’s also important to tie social justice to personal holiness, Platt points out. Fighting sex trafficking while looking at porn, for instance, is an ironic—and tragic—double standard.

⁴ This definition is largely borrowed from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center — <http://bit.ly/1HStswq> and <http://bit.ly/19gPRlz>.

⁵ When sex trafficking is present, victims are often subjected to violence, threats, controlling behaviors, false promises, lies, and manipulation perpetrated by their traffickers.

⁶ The average victim may be forced to have sex up to 20-48 times a day (Polaris Project).

⁷ See References for sources.

⁸ <http://bit.ly/1xvFP6>

⁹ According to END IT Movement, \$150.2 billion per year is generated by slavery.

¹⁰ See References for sources.

¹¹ *God In A Brothel*, article on The Gospel Coalition website — <http://bit.ly/1FYAVZQ>

¹² Listed via <http://bit.ly/1yzn4Wr> and <http://bit.ly/1Aktqsg>.

¹³ Much of this material is taken from <http://bit.ly/1HStswq>.

¹⁴ An article on The Gospel Coalition website entitled *God In A Brothel* adds, “It flourishes because there is a wall of complacency, complicity, and corruption. Sex trafficking runs by the laws of supply and demand. Demand is generated by thousands of men around the world. Economic, social, cultural, and gender factors make women and children vulnerable to being exploited as an endless supply” (<http://bit.ly/1FYAVZQ>).

¹⁵ An Answers in Genesis article entitled *Human Trafficking: the West’s New Slave Trade* reported the following positive story of American involvement internationally to stop human trafficking (<http://bit.ly/1x1VoyQ>).

Fortunately, the United States has launched successful campaigns to warn men against exploiting children in other countries. For instance, World Vision’s Child Sex Tourism Prevention Project, funded by the U.S. State Department, put up billboards in several countries that pictured young children with the warnings, “I am not a tourist attraction” or “Abuse a child in this country . . . go to jail in yours.” The campaign also ran in-flight videos against sex tourism on some airlines.

¹⁶ *What Christians Do About Modern-Day Slavery* — <http://bit.ly/1FiSxkT>

¹⁷ Information taken from <http://bit.ly/1HStswq>.

¹⁸ Resources: <http://bit.ly/1FZjQ1N>, <http://bit.ly/1BCAdRo>, <http://bit.ly/1BCAgMA>, and <http://bit.ly/1vTp8VI>.

¹⁹ *Social Justice and Young Evangelicals: Encouragement and Concern* is a very helpful article/video that discusses the balance between social reform and gospel witness — <http://bit.ly/1FiPXLN>.

²⁰ *What Christians Do About Modern-Day Slavery* — <http://bit.ly/1FiSxkT>

²¹ The three points below are taken from <http://bit.ly/1CdpjmH>.

²² *What Christians Do About Modern-Day Slavery* — <http://bit.ly/1FiSxkT>

²³ The now familiar full quote is, “But what I do have are a very particular set of skills, skills I have acquired over a very long career. Skills that make me a nightmare for people like you. If you let my daughter go now, that’ll be the end of it. I will not look for you, I will not pursue you. But if you don’t, I will look for you, I will find you, and I will kill you.”