



Black and White: Radical Grace, Raw Truth and Real Hope in a Gray World
Podcast Episode #7: The Human Condition - We're only Human - Handling Temptation
Denise Pass & Micah Maddox

Denise

Well, hi there and welcome back to Black and White. Where we speak radical grace, raw truth, and real hope in a gray world. I am your host Denise Pass with my amazing Co Host Micah Maddox and we are so glad that you came back to listen in today. Here in March we are doing a series on exploring the human condition with in our culture. Today we are going to talk about handling temptation. I think we need some dramatic music there, don't you? Ha ha!

Micah

Ha ha! I do too! Handling temptation is such a...it's a needed topic, but it's a tough one! Because it's not something we want to talk about.

Denise

Right!

Micah

It is not something that is easy to talk about because, even though I know you well denise, I don't know want to tell you how I am tempted! Right?!

Denise

Uh hmm.

Micah

It's just not something that is easy to think about or to talk about. But I think it is relevant, we need to. And when we look into the truth of God's Word, you know, we have a good example of how to deal with temptation in the person of Jesus. You know, Jesus is tempted by the devil and Jesus so clearly gives us the perfect way to deal with temptation. Now Jesus is perfect, which makes it seem impossible for us to deal with it this way but this is what He says. He says, "It is written. Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. It is written, you shall not put the Lord your God to the test. It is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and Him only you shall serve." All of these verses out of Matthew Chapter 4 as Jesus is literally telling the devil, Hey, you know what God's word says? God's Word gives me the way to avoid temptation. And if I can say myself, hey devil, it's written that I'm going to A B C D, right? Sounds so perfect and so simple when we see Jesus as our example. But how do we really apply this in our own lives?

Denise

That's a great question! Because we can tend to rationalize, right?

Micah

OOOOOO!!! That's such an ugly word!

Denise

It is! We need to counter temptation with Truth. Truth. Sorry I'll say that again, We need to counter temptation with truth and ask for God's grace to overcome. God's truth, is our lifesaver when we are surrounded by a sea of temptations. Have you ever noticed though that sometimes the enemy also tries to use God's Word?

Micah

So he started in the beginning, right? In the garden with eve. Did God really say that Eve?

Denise

Right

Micah

Did God really say, that if you eat that piece of fruit, right?

Denise

Exactly

Micah

Ughhhhh! It's like man, he started with the woman right away! He tried to deceive her and he tries to deceive us. And he is doing well in our culture isn't he? Wow!

Denise

Oh yes! Well it's funny too because if we would look at it through the lens of God's truth. Eve in that moment would have paused and said, "hmmmm. I was made in God's image. Why would I want to eat a piece of fruit? A piece of fruit that is not going to make me in God's image. Why would I want to now eat a piece of fruit if it was not going to make into God's image?'

Micah

Right...yeah i would have been more tempted if it was like a donut! Ha ha!

Denise

Ha ha!

Micah

Right? A donut and a Dr. Pepper, I would have probably been like Yesssss!

Denise

You all heard it now, we know your temptation!

But yeah temptation deceives us and our flesh deceives us. This is why I think it is so difficult. Not just the rationalization but we get deceived! We get lost and disillusioned because we do sometimes bite that fruit too if we are honest. We take just subtle things. Subtle things that we do. And you know I believe the enemy works in degrees. Meaning it's just subtle. Subtle influence in our lives that we do where we say, well I know this is wrong but I'll just kind of...it's ok if I just do it a little. Like I'll watch this movie that has cursing in it, and I'll just you know, you know I don't know sometimes in our family we've done booooo! I can't hear you! Or fast forward. But you know I told my kids recently, I don't want to pollute myself.

Micah

Hmmmm

Denise

If I know that it is going to have cursing, and you can look that up on IMDB. I don't want to tempt myself. Even though I am not really tempted to curse if I am honest, but you know apart from God's grace we all could fall. And I just don't want to watch something that's vile because Psalm 101 says to walk in our house with a blameless heart.

Micah

That is so beautiful. I think this is so counter cultural.

Denise

Yes.

Micah

Because you know our kids are bombarded and I know my kids go to a Christian school and yet they will come home and be like, Oh my friend saw...and they will tell me what movie. And I know the message of the movie is worldly. It's driven by the world. It's driven by those who are

not believers. And I'm like it's not that bad, but do we really want to fill our minds with it? You know? Maybe it's not filled with curse words, but the message of it is something that would be contrary to God's Word. Contrary to the beliefs that we would want to uphold in our family. So why would we want to fill our minds with it. The enemy is so deceptive.

Denise

He is and I think the reason we do this is because of the flesh wants it. And a lot of times you know it's our flesh rising up. And you know when we feed our flesh by giving in to that temptation, we weaken the spirit. When we feed the spirit with God's Word and we say not to temptation, we get stronger and we are able to face temptations with more strength.

Micah

Yeah I think that's so true. You know temptation starts so young. Its starts at little teeny babies and kids. I know for me I have a vivid memory from when I was five years old. I was in the store with my mother and I looked over across the wall and there were these earrings.

Denise

Hmmmmm

Micah

And there was a whole wall of earrings. But there was this one pair. And they were purple and they were sparkly! And I was like, "oh I want those earrings so bad!" And I don't even think I asked my mother if I could have them, you know if wasn't like I asked and she said, no. It was just, I see those, I want those, and I am going to get those. And I remember, reaching up and taking the little earrings. They were on a little card, you know? And I pulled those earrings off the card and I pulled the back off and put the back pack back on. I had the two little earrings in my hand. I was holding them tight. And afterwards we went to Sonic. And we are sitting at sonic and I was so convicted! I was like, oh no! My mother is going to find out and even worse if the police find out I am going to go to jail! Ha ha!

Denise

Ha ha!

Micah

And so I rolled my window down, and it wasn't one of the electric windows like we have now. So I cranked the window with my little five year old arm with all my might. And I took those earrings and I snuck my hand over the edge of the window and I dropped them out the window.

Denise

Hmmmm

Micah

Thinking if I let go of them now, I'll be free, right?

And my mom turned and she looked at me and she was like, "what was that sweetie?" I was like, "hmmm nothing!" And she got out went around and picked up those earrings. She made me go back into that store. And apologize to the woman. And I was sobbing! I was the shyest little girl ever. So I am standing there with these purple earrings saying I am so sorry that I did this! But it goes all the way back to the temptation of me seeing and wanting. You know lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life came in at Sonic. And I dropped those and I think man how do we deal with it as a little child? I was convicted. Good, that's a good sign, right? And now as an adult there's still things I see and I want. And I know better not to take and not to shoplift.

Denise

Right, We are glad to know that! Ha ha!

Micah

But there's other...yes ha ha. Please don't come to my house! So I think that as we look at temptation we kinda need to become like a little child. You know we need to become like a little child because as a child we are convicted easily. We are convicted quickly and our hearts were more sensitive back then right?

Denise

Yeah

Micah

So now, how do you be sensitive in a desensitized culture?

Denise

Yeah you know I have a confession too to make!

Micah

Oh no!! Ha ha! You didn't know this was confession hour with Micah and Denise!

Denise

Ha ha!! Alright we know donuts and Dr. Pepper! I will not have those things around this girl! Or wear purple earrings! No! Ha ha! I think we are sisters separated at birth because I was also five. But the problem is... actually you are a little bit more fashionable than I am. I was tempted by food! Which is something I still unfortunately struggle with! But I digress! But uh, so I was five and we were standing in a convenience store. And I saw the package of the Certs!

Micah

This is awesome! Ha!

Denise

Ha ha!! Calling my name! And I am probably dating myself. Because I don't even know - do they still even make Certs?

Micah

I don't know! I don't even know!

Denise

Ok! Look online! Ok.

Micah

She takes it back!

Denise

Ha ha! But I still remember, asking for the Certs. So I did ask ok. I was a little...

Micah

Oh yeah!

Denise

More hardened than you are. And I plotted how I could satisfy my want. This is something I talk to my children about as well. We have to rule our wants. Rather than let our wants rule us. And that day I let my wants rule and I took those Certs and right when we got in the car, I popped one in my mouth. "Crunch crunch" Ha ha! And then I think I may have...I don't think I tried to throw mine out the window. I wasn't going to waste, ha ha! I wasn't feeling that bad about it! Ha ha! But my mom, you know said, what is that?" You know and suddenly I felt guilt! You know oh my goodness. You have to go back and apologize. Of course, I had already eaten some of the evidence but...ha ha!

Micah

Oh no!

Denise

So I think it's one of those things. And I have had it with my children as well. I think it's training them up to recognize that want and to be able to battle temptation. Because they are going to have to do that. Just as we as adults still have to do that. We have to choose to say, are we going to have life or death? Are we going to obey God or not? And you know it may be funny to talk about being five, with a package of Certs, but if that is not dealt with, when we are older and we continue to feed the flesh it can lead to big problems.

Micah

Yeah, I think if we really know the foundation of the temptation. Ok you know it's the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes. And the pride of life. You know that's what the Bible tells us is the top or the main. And everything kind of falls under one of those areas. And so as we know that we are going to struggle with these. Then we look at our lives, at our relationships, and our responsibilities. So we look at our marriages. Ok I know in my marriage the enemy wants to come kill, steal, and to destroy. Right? So how am I going to avoid temptation in my marriage. Well I have to know ok the lust of the flesh, that could potentially be an issue in my marriage.

So how am I going to avoid temptation in that area. And then we look at the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes. And sometimes we put this all on husbands. You know, the lust of the eyes! Like don't look! Don't look at her! You know this day and age I've heard the phrase, porn in your pocket. You know our kids, this next generation are being brought up with so much access! It's so easy to get pornography! When we were growing up boys had to really search for it right? And they always say the boys, but if you'll look at the statistics it's equally boys and girls! And I don't know if you realize this but I think the average age of children is between 7 and 9 of their first exposure to pornography. And so that is an eye opening statistic! What a young age that they are faced with such unbelievable potential for destruction. Right?

Denise

You know, yes. And I just want to inject some hope here. Though it is so easy, we can make our homes a refuge. We can guard our eyes with the movies we watch, with the music. We can guard our ears with the music we listen to and we can train our children the way they should go. And there's hope in that. Because even when they make mistakes. God forgives. And he is able to set us free from our temptations.

Micah

I love that! And you know, Denise, you are coming from five children, right? And they are all older children. And so as you speak, I just love it because it is such a voice of wisdom. I am right in the thick of parenting. You know, I've got a two-year-old, a seven-year-old, and a ten year old and an eleven year old. So I am right in the middle of it. That give such hope to people like me in my stage of life. To know that, and a responsibility, to know that we can you know really build the walls around our home. Not to shelter our kids but to nurture their hearts.

Denise

Yes

Micah

You know and we can be in the world and not of the world.

Denise

Amen

Micah

And as our culture is bombarding our kids with images and using music and things that are just totally against anything that God would ever be glorified by. We have the opportunity to pour into them and to help them to avoid the temptations that they are going to face. And to help them to be armed and ready when they do face it or when they do come up with it. In fact there's a book, Good pictures Bad Pictures is what it is called. And it helps people in my stage of life with children between the ages of seven to twelve to really identify and realize how to protect our brains. And in that when we learn how to protect our brains then the parents can come alongside with God's word and say we are also protecting our hearts. Right? And we are

doing that because we love God so much and we are created in His image and He loves us so much

Denise

And that is so important to understand the motivation of our hearts because it can become a list. Of legalistic things you have to do. But we understand our heart is to protect our children. But they have to live in this world and be able to combat evil.

Micah

Right, oh yeah!

Denise

And so you have to train them up to be able to do that. And they have to have that knowledge of evil at the right time. Through God's truth.

Micah

I think that's the radical grace portion here, is that we are going to face temptation. All of us. Our kids and us. You know we can't excuse ourselves and say I don't face temptation anymore. But we do! We will face temptation, but Jesus always offers forgiveness! Even when we mess up! And the raw truth is that you know what Jesus was tempted just like we are! And the Bible promises a way out.

Denise

Amen

Micah

Submit yourselves therefore to God resist the devil and he will flee from you James 4:7 says. And we have real hope, we have real hope that we have the Word of God that we can cling to and we can run to in any temptation. And I think that running, that action of running when we realize that we are faced with temptation is key. Truth, the word, delivers us from temptation

Denise

Amen

Micah

Today you have been listening to the Black and White podcast where we filter life through the Bible and live life in the freedom of truth. Don't just know truth go live it!