

**Series Character Matters****Passage** Judges 14:1-9**Title** Termites in the Temple**Speaker:** Dave Menard 01/29/2017

Discussion Starter: On Sunday we saw a visual demonstration of how easy it was to break and crumble a piece of termite infested wood. What do the termites represent and how does this relate to us?

Unguarded Affections (Judges 14:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:22)

- As chapter fourteen begins to unfold we see that Samson is not living a sanctified life, he is living a selfish life. He seems to be falling into the trap of doing what is right in his own eyes. One of the undesired fruits of this lifestyle, is that his affections are totally unguarded. In your own words describe what it mean to have unguarded affections?
- What are some affections we need to keep guarded and under control?
- What are the two most important questions that Samson should have asked himself before acting on his own desires? In Samson's case, he seemed to have let his affections overpower good judgement to the point where he was not even willing to listen to his parent's counsel. As you look back were there times in your life when you let your own desires overpower good judgement? Describe what it was, how it turned out and what you learned.
- According to 2 Timothy 2:22 it says we are supposed to "flee youthful lusts". How might you better translate the meaning of "youthful lusts"? And how are we to practically apply this instruction to our daily lives? What are some of the dangers of not immediately fleeing from these temptations?
- We know that God is not against marriage, He invented it. Why then was it a sin for Samson to marry this Philistine girl? When we yield to sin as Samson did, what does that hinder us from?

Subtle Sin (Judges 14:4-8)

- Walking through a vineyard, eating honey out of a lion's carcass... subtle sins in Samson's life, seem like no big deal, yet they will destroy us. What are some subtle sins in our life? How do they take root?
- We see Samson lost his sanctification here and he had no Lordship in his life. What does it look like for us to actually be under the Lordship of Christ?

Superficial Fellowship. (Judges 14:9; Proverbs 15:31-33)

- Samson did not tell his parents that he had taken honey from a dead carcass in order to avoid his own accountability. He was not in true fellowship with his parents but fell into the trap of a superficial relationship. According to Proverbs 13:31-33 we are called to surround ourselves with people who are not afraid to tell us the truth and keep us accountable. What happens when our fellowship is only superficial? How are some of the ways we can ensure that our fellowship in not superficial?