

The background features a spider web with a teal-to-orange gradient. The web is composed of numerous thin, interconnected lines that form a complex, geometric pattern. The color transitions from a dark teal on the left to a bright orange on the right, creating a sense of depth and movement. The text is overlaid on this background, with the word 'PREDATOR?' being significantly larger and bolder than the rest of the text.

WHAT CONSUMES THE
PREDATOR?

“ANOTHER SCANDAL?!”

- Because of the way technology and information move so quickly today, we are living in a time of unprecedented exposure to sex scandals, abuse in the workplace, domestic violence, and exploitation. It should go without saying that this is, overall, a good thing – light is being shed on a problem that seemed too easy to sweep under the rug, culturally-speaking.
- Individuals who once bought into their own power and invincibility, who fit quite naturally into the role of predators, have been destroyed by their own sin. Peter pointed out, long ago, that sin has a way with doing this (2 Peter 2:19).

- Of course, venting our collective spleen at lewd, abusive politicians, celebrities, and neighborhood sex offenders keeps the problem at arm's length – it's always something that “they” do to “us.”
- Recognizing the false advertisement of sin in our own lives is a more productive way to combat it. We must learn to identify the great lie that infects all perpetrators of sin – that everybody is either a predator or prey, and being the predator ensures both satisfaction and survival.
- The Bible (and the witness of human experience) paint sin in an entirely different light. It is presented as the very thing that guarantees you will be eaten by the greatest predator of all (1 Peter 5:8).

SIN'S GREAT LIE

- Exploitation always leads down the same path of destruction, for both predator and prey. It promises satisfaction but only delivers self-loathing, frustration, and the abiding pain of violation. 2 Samuel 13 tells of Amnon and Tamar, a painful, heartbreaking story that could have been ripped from the headlines today.
- Amnon forced himself upon her and ended up hating her (13:15). Tamar never fully recovered from the reprehensible violation, feeling “desolate”, perhaps for the rest of her days (13:20).



- A lot of our sins simply begin with an inkling. We think we can control it – and, perhaps, for a time we are successful. But sin always grows and becomes unmanageable.
- Ezekiel 16:27-34 – A free sample, a good deal, a bargain – and eventually the deal flips against you!
- Ezekiel 23:1-18 – One sister watched as the other was consumed by her sins. She learned nothing and became even worse. Sin's consequences shouldn't surprise us, but they always do. If we would only observe the effects of lust, greed, and hatred, we wouldn't be caught in them!
- Sin wearies the sinner. It is exhausting, desperate, pathetic (Jeremiah 9:5, Genesis 19:11).

JUST A TASTE

“BUT I’M NO PREDATOR”

- Comparing my sin to another person’s sin is one of the easiest ways to rationalize or justify myself. And while it’s certainly true that molesters, lewd bosses, and violent spouses are in the minority, sin, at its core, is basically the same from person to person.
- All sin, in a way, is predation. It is the manifestation of my selfish will exerted on another (person, property, or will). This is exactly how James describes sin in James 3:14-16 and 4:1-3.
- Whether we’re talking about sin five thousand years ago or today, whether it is committed by kings or paupers, sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4) and lust gone wild (James 1:14-15, 1 John 2:16-17).



SO HOW DO I ESCAPE
FROM MY OWN WEB?

- PICK THE CALLOUSES OFF – Compare Jeremiah 8:12 to Ezekiel 20:43. You will never start to defeat sin until you finally come to loathe what it makes you become. It's the difference between Cain, who sulked away from God an unrepentant man, and David, who was crushed by his sin and responded with resolve and humility.
- BE HONEST ABOUT WHAT LED YOU TO THIS POINT – If you repent, but go right back to the same people, places, and attitudes that brought you down before, nothing has changed (2 Peter 2:20-22).
- DON'T GO CHEAP ON THE APOLOGY – Don't deflect responsibility with phrases like "I'm sorry IF..." or "I'm sorry that you..." Be specific about sin, rather than blanket statements that don't actually fix anything, i.e., "I've made many mistakes" or "We all struggle at times."

A MESSAGE FOR OUR KIDS

- Nobody loves you more than your family. Watch out for authority figures that make an unfounded claim to your best interests.
- Nobody will forgive and nurture you after a fall like your parents (Luke 15:20ff, Psalm 103:13).
- Nobody has so much power over the direction of your life to demand anything sexual from you. Your success in a career or other pursuit will not be made or broken because of one person.
- If success can only be achieved through allowing yourself to be exploited (which I doubt), then it's not worth it.
- Monsters have waived their right to privilege and privacy. Do not hesitate to contact parents and police!