

Holy Sex
Sexual Purity in a World Gone Mad
9 - What Can I Do to Stay Free? part 1
Genesis 39:1-12
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney

Step #1 - Make Up Your Mind Ahead of Time that You're Going to Refuse the very First Hint of Temptation

The time to put together strategies is not when you're staring the temptation in the face! The groundwork that needs to be done in your thinking and mind needs to take place ahead of time.

"The problem with so many people who flee temptation is that they want to leave a forwarding address." -
Martin Luther

One of the reasons that Joseph SURVIVED and THRIVED in a world very much like ours is that he'd already made up his mind what he was going to do about sexual temptation.

Genesis 39:7-8 "Now it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, 'Lie with me.' But he refused..."

Step #2 - Do Everything You Can to Keep God Squarely in the Picture

Genesis 39:9 "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he (Potiphar) kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Joseph had a high view of God and understood that no matter how good Potiphar had been to him – God was better, and ultimately the source of all blessing and the hand of all judgment.

The first step towards sin is not when you open wide and bite down on that glittering temptation. One of the earliest and most subtle steps towards sin is when your thoughts of God grow dim and get pushed to the margins of your mind.

"In our members there is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power, desire seizes mastery over the flesh. All at once a secret, smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames... Joy in God is in course of being extinguished in us and we seek all our joy in the creature. At this moment God is quite unreal to us, He loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real... Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God... The lust thus aroused envelops the mind and will of man in deepest darkness. The powers of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us..." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Creation and Fall and Temptation* (New York, N.Y.: Macmillan Pub. Co., Collier Books, 1959) pp. 116-117

The first step towards spiritual coolness is not HATRED for God... but FORGETFULNESS of God.

A. Read His Word So You Can Remember How God Talks about Sexual Sin

You were designed for so much more than just physical pleasure. You were created and designed to glorify God!

I Corinthians 6:13-20 "Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body... Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May it never be!... Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body... For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body."

Our culture works overtime at MAGNIFYING the pleasure of sexual sin and MINIMIZING the consequences.

B. Read His Word so that You Can Remember the Hidden & Often Delayed Cost of Sexual Sin

Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived; God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” Giving in to sinful desires DOES feel good... for a little while. And then the payments start rolling in – payments like shame, misery, destruction and broken relationships with God and other people.

Hebrews 11:25 "passing pleasures of sin"

You must have a HARVEST mentality when you think about sexual sin, or any other sin. It's not about what happens immediately; it's about what happens ultimately and eternally!

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13 “Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are a shadow, because he does not fear God.”

There's a payday someday coming. You might not see it now, but it's coming. There's always a price to be paid!

C. Read God's Word and Stay Close to God's People so that You Can Know Your Own Heart Because that's Where a Worship War is being Fought on a Daily Basis

Matthew 22:37-39 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

“The wars of sex and money are never just a battle with the temptations of the surrounding culture; they're never just about behavior or about what we do with our bodies. Christ is saying that our behavior is more directed by what's inside us than the people and situations outside us. He's saying that sexual struggles are inescapably struggles of the heart. Physical adultery is simply the body going where the heart has long ago gone.” *Sex & Money*, Paul David Tripp, p 45

The battle to control your body and your sexual urges can be traced back to the heart.

Matthew 15:19 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

“... in sex you are always worshipping something. Your sexual life is shaped by the worship of God, the worship of self, the worship of the other person, or the worship of what you get out of sex. What this means is that in sex you and I are always surrendering our hearts to something. The things we say, do, and seek in sex are all ruled by the desire for something. In this most intimate of human activities, you are always revealing who God designed you to be—a worshiper. You don't put down your worship nature when you're having sex. You and I have worshiped our way through every moment of any kind of sexual activity to which we've given ourselves.” *Sex & Money*, Paul David Tripp, p 84

Sinful pleasures always start off looking like our little play-thing; they give us the illusion of control, but they end up ruling us, and ruining us and wrecking our worship.

Conclusion

Jesus died on the cross to rescue people just like you and me from sins just like the one that's beating you up right now - and has you in its grip.

Romans 5:20 “... but where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.”

Hebrews 7:25 “... able to save to the uttermost”

Praise God for His grace... the power of His cross to break the grip of sin in our lives.