

Holy Sex

Sexual Purity in a World Gone Mad

10 - What Can I Do to Stay Free? part 2

Genesis 39:1-20

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

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?”

Step #3 - Don't Flirt with Temptation – REMOVE Yourself!

Genesis 39:10 “And so it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.” (NIV ‘day after day’)

Sexual temptation is relentless! What separates the godly men and women from the ungodly boys and girls of this world is the ability to say ‘No’ to a temptation over... and over... and over again!

Proverbs 27:12 "The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it."

It is amazing how often we walk into known areas of temptation without any plan or resolution as to how we're going to react.

Modesty Exhortation

Ladies, your temptations in this area are often very different than they are for men. So if you're not careful, you could be making it hard for your brothers in Christ to pursue holiness. What you choose to wear and how you choose to dress doesn't just affect you. It affects every man around you who has reached puberty.

If you're struggling right now in your heart thinking, ‘Why should this be MY problem?’ Here are some things to think about:

It's not your problem alone, but we need your help as we fight to do the right thing with our eyes. Also, consider what GOD says:

Philippians 2:3-7 “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for His own interests, but also the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men.”

You're never more like Jesus than when you're laying down your own rights!

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him, who died for them and rose again.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Your body and your beauty are not your own to do whatever you want!

I Timothy 2:9-11 *New Living* “And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes. For women who claim to be devoted to God should make themselves attractive by the good things they do.”

Modesty is humility expressed in dress. It's a desire to serve others, particularly men, by not promoting or provoking sensuality.

"Men are tempted to give themselves to pornography– women are tempted to commit pornography." If you're a woman, you don't have to pose for a picture or star in a pornographic movie to commit pornography. When you dress and behave in a way that is designed primarily to arouse sexual desire in men, you're committing pornography with your life." *Not Even a Hint*, Joshua Harris, p. 87

If you're beautiful, God made you beautiful; thank Him for that! But don't abuse it. And make sure your true beauty is that of your inner person.

"... A woman needs to think of walking in this world with sinful people. She needs to walk as she would with a candle into a room filled with straw or gunpowder. She needs to be careful about how she exercises and exhibits her feminine wonders... If she's not careful, there may be an explosion – a flame after it's too late to do anything about it." *A Christian Directory*, Baxter's Practical Works, Vol. 1, p.392

For the glory of God, rethink what you're doing by the way you dress. There's a difference between dressing attractively and dressing to attract!

Step #4 – Be Willing to Run and Ready to Get RADICAL

Genesis 39:12 “... she caught him by his garment, saying, ‘Lie with me.’ But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.”

Getting radical starts with paying attention to the little stuff! If you're ONLY alert to the gross, heinous sexual sins then you're still at risk.

- Pay attention to the little stuff

“The actual descent into sin begins without much fanfare. When looking into the Grand Canyon, the first step down seems insignificant. Rather than a huge, noticeable leap of rebellion, [sin] is marked by small steps of spiritual casualness or indifference, and a lack of sensitivity to right and wrong. It doesn't capture our attention; spiritual indifference and apathy don't attract notice. After all, everyone coasts now and then, we think.” (*Addictions*, Ed Welch, p. 67)

- Have you been guilty of some small steps of indiscretion thinking, ‘Ah... it's no big deal?’

Nobody JUST jumps into bed with someone they shouldn't be in bed with. It's a gradual process.

“He would put his arm around her when he asked how she was doing. She would stand with her body actually touching him when they were waiting in the hallway for a meeting. He would grab her hand when he was making a point or touch her shoe with his shoe under the table in a meeting. All of this appeared to him and maybe to others as harmless, but it wasn't harmless at all. It wasn't harmless because all of it was sexual, highly sexual. He had weeks earlier committed adultery in his heart; that is, he had shifted the affection of his heart from his wife to his fellow worker, and now he was beginning to commit adultery with his body. It was all office-acceptable foreplay, and it wouldn't be long before sex would follow.” *Sex & Money*, Paul David Tripp, p 44

Pay attention to the little stuff and be ready to run! The time to be alarmed is long before people start taking off their clothes. That's way too late!

- **Allow other people into your life**

Proverbs 18:1 “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.”

Satan is halfway to victory if he can get you to isolate yourself and convince you that you can just deal with on your own. Sin by its very nature is deceptive; that’s why we need each other speaking into our lives.

Hebrews 3:12-13 “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

As long as something is hidden in your life, it has power; but when you bring it out into the open a lot of the power is broken. Confessing the intensity of your struggle to a trustworthy friend is like removing the teeth from an angry dog. The temptation is still there, but some of the bite is gone.

I Corinthians 9:27 “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

Join me in putting a STRATEGY in place to keep fighting the good fight of faith!