

So Long Self: Living for Him in a Me-First World

Joseph - Fighting Sexual Sin, Part 1

Genesis 39:1-12

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / July 27, 2025

Step #1 – You Better Make Up Your Mind Ahead Of Time

One of the reasons that Joseph survived and even 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.

The time to make up your mind is early. Joseph was 17 when he first landed in Potiphar's house!

Genesis 39:7-8 “And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, ‘Lie with me.’
⁸ But he refused...”

Joseph refused immediately, abruptly, and rudely, because it was automatic! It was his default, pre-planned, already determined response!

You better make up your mind now, and then you better manage your mind every minute of every day.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

The Message v. 5 “We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.”

You better get a hold of every loose thought, emotion, and impulse because the real battle for avoiding sexual sin is fought in your mind, because every sin, sexual or otherwise, starts with a thought.

Step #2 – You Better Do Everything You Can To Keep God Squarely In The Picture

Don't let God get “fuzzy.” Joseph brought the whole thing back to God in a hurry!

Genesis 39:9 “He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”

Joseph kept God front and center as the biggest motivation and reason for fighting sin. Joseph never let God drift to the edges of his mind and neither should we!

One of the first and most subtle steps towards sin is when your thoughts of God grow dim and He gets pushed to the margin of your mind.

Do everything you can to stay as God-conscious as possible, as often as possible, because it's a wonderful deterrent to sin!

“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...The flesh burns and is in flames...Joy in God is in course of being extinguished in us...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...It is here that everything within me rises up against the Word of God.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Creation and Fall and Temptation*

The first step towards sexual sin is not hatred for God, but forgetfulness of God!

Romans 1:28 “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.”

A. You Better Remember God And What He Says About Sexual Sin

Adultery, sex before marriage, homosexuality, prostitution, pedophilia, bestiality, and pornography are all sin, as these are all twisted versions of God’s good gift.

Hebrews 13:4 “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed [*“marriage bed” is a euphemism for sexual intimacy in marriage*] be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”

Right now, God sees every hidden, sexual thing you’re doing! It may be a secret to everyone around you, but it’s not a secret to God. He sees it, and He’s going to judge you for it if you don’t repent!

Numbers 32:23 “... be sure your sins will find you out.”

B. You Better Do Everything You Can To Stay Satisfied In God!

Psalms 81:10-13, 16 “Open wide your mouth and I will fill it. ¹¹ But My people did not listen to My voice... ¹² So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels. ¹³ Oh that My people would listen to Me... ¹⁶ and I would feed you with the finest wheat; and with honey from the rock ***I would have satisfied you.***”

“Sin is what we do when we’re not satisfied in God.”

- John Piper

“...the truth is that the practical application teachings in our courses of Radical Accountability, Amputation and Appropriation are in and of themselves of little lasting value without the fourth and most important one that for now we can call “Radical Adoration.” We could find a local accountability partner, but we cannot rely on our accountability partners because sooner or later those relationships drift away or we will be unable to get a hold of them in a moment of need. We cannot always rely on our filter because we will inevitably get a new computer that will not come with a filter pre-installed or be somewhere that porn is available for viewing or purchase...Without falling in love with Jesus Christ and seeking to serve Him daily with all their heart, mind, soul and strength, it is only a matter of time before our resolve to stay away from the old idols begins to weaken and down we will go.”

- Shon Bruellman

God is not a killjoy and He is not concerned that you'll experience too much sex! He's concerned that you'll experience too little because you threw yourself into a truncated, shrunken, deceptive, and pathetic imitation of His glorious original design.

He's concerned that you'll pay way too much for it, and get nothing but misery and shame in return. He's good and He wants you to experience the best!

C. You Better Remember The Hidden Cost Of Sin

Galatians 6:7 "Do not be deceived; God is not mocked. A man reaps what he sows."

Giving in to sinful desires does feel good for a little while, and then the payments start rolling in. Payments like shame, misery, destruction, disease, and brokenness.

Hebrews 11:25 "...passing pleasures of sin."

NIV "...the pleasures of sin for a short time."

HCSB "...the short-lived pleasures of sin."

You have to play the long game and have a harvest mentality, because it is not about what happens immediately. It's what happens ultimately and eternally.

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13 "Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil. ¹² Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before Him. ¹³ But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God."

Strategies for Staying Sexually Pure

Sexual Purity Covenant

I will never open any program for sexual stimulation.

1 Corinthians 6:13b “Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.”

2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

I will never purchase or download anything pornographic. I will not sit and watch television programs that are sexually stimulating

Ephesians 5:5 “For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

Psalm 101:3 “I will set no worthless thing before my eyes...”

I will guard my eyes and abstain and avoid always any stimulating material of any type. I will not watch sexually stimulating videos of any kind – regardless of the rating. (PG, PG-13, R or X)

Psalm 39:1a “...I will guard my ways...”

Matthew 6:22-23 “The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²² But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore, the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

Job 31:1 “I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?”

I will not participate in computer chat rooms or Facebook developing relationships with other women or men through the internet.

Matthew 12:36-37a “And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you shall be justified...”

I will not cultivate any emotionally intimate one-on-one relationship other than with my spouse.

Exodus 20:14, 17b “You shall not commit adultery... ¹⁷you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.”

Proverbs 5:15, 18-19 “Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well... ¹⁸ rejoice with the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love.”

I will not replace the risk of personal relationships with the impersonal safety of my computer. I will not retreat to it and out of life. I will limit my time to use the computer for recreational activities.

Matthew 22:37-39 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... and the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Our first priorities are relationships! Not things. Working on our relationship with God and other people should take precedence over time on the computer.

I will spend my constructive creative energy not with the television or in the unreality of virtual reality on the computer, but in the reality of the real world. I will never use the internet to satisfy my own selfish, self-centered desires wanting to stimulate my fleshly passions.

Romans 13:14 “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

When doing research on the internet, I will work only to find the information needed and get off, no idle surfing. I will strictly limit my experimental time on the computer and devote myself more to truth than to technique.

John 8:32 “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.”

I _____ on this day _____, 2025 pledge by God’s grace at work in me to fight to honor this vow before God and men.
--