

Stages In the Struggle for Sexual Purity — There Is A Way Out!

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- Sex addictions, sexual immorality, and pornography are consuming our nation, our marriages, our homes, our sons and daughters.
- We are living in unprecedented times of exposure to pornographic material
- Never has porn been so easily available ... It's no longer tucked away in magazines in grandpa's closet.
- You don't have to walk down the street to a magazine store.
- Just have a smart phone, tablet, or computer and it'll come to you on demand ... or unsolicited!
- And our churches, including pastors and parishioners are struggling as much as those outside the church.
- There are more of you who are addicted or tinkering with sexual immorality than will admit it. But you're in here!
- And most of us have no idea how we got so deep in here!!!
- It is God's desire for every man here be free, clear, and clean of the stronghold/addiction to sex. **(1 Thessalonians 4:3-6)**
- God has a plan for your life. He loves you.
- He desires your freedom and he wants to use your life to bless others like nothing you've ever dreamed of.
- You can get free. You can be the man God created you to be. But you cannot get free without confronting the sin and fighting for your destiny!
- More like a Bible study today ... want to expose you to a lot of Scripture on the subject ... God knows where we are and what we need.

- **The Statistics** (of Sexual Addictions & Pornography Online In America are staggering!!!!) — We Have A Problem (www.webroot.com)

- Every Second:

- 28,258 users are watching pornography on the internet.
- \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography on the internet.
- 372 people are typing the word "adult" into a search engine.
- Every Day:
 - 37 pornographic videos are created in the United States.
 - 2.5 billion emails containing porn are sent or received.
 - 68 million search queries related to pornography- 25% of total searches- are generated.
 - 116,000 queries related to child pornography are received.

- How Online Pornography Affects Americans
 - About 200,000 Americans are classified as “porn addicts.”
 - 40 million American people regularly visit porn sites.
 - 35% of all internet downloads are related to pornography.
 - 34% of internet users have experienced unwanted exposure to pornographic content through ads, pop up ads, misdirected links or emails.
 - One-third of porn viewers are women.

- How Internet Pornography Usage Hurts Teens
 - **It increases the odds of teenage pregnancy.**
 - **It hinders sexual development.**
 - Pornography viewing by teens disorients them during *the developmental phase when they have to learn how to handle their sexuality and when they are most vulnerable to uncertainty about their sexual beliefs and moral values.*
 - **It raises the risk of depression.**
 - **It creates distorted expectations which hinder healthy sexual development.**

- Family/Marital Pornography Stats
 - According to National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families, 2010, **47% of families in the United States reported that pornography is a problem in their home.**
 - Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300%.

- 40 percent of people identified as “sex addicts” lose their spouses, 58 percent suffer considerable financial losses, and about 33% lose their jobs.
- 68% of divorce cases involve one party meeting a new paramour over the internet while 56% involve one party having an “obsessive interest” in pornographic websites.xv

- **The Seduction/Simple (Satan’s Strategy) (Proverbs 7:7-23)**
- For most men, sexual addiction including pornography, masturbation, even prostitution begins early
- **“simple”** means **immature** or **inexperienced**
- none of them had any sense; this one was particularly stupid ...

Vulnerable

- I was introduced to sexually explicit images at around 10 years old
- The experiments began early in childhood
- Introduced to magazines in middle school
- ***Satan seduces, then he seizes***
- I.e. He peaks our curiosity (out of loneliness then introduces the pleasure principle (sometimes through molestation or porn; through friends and family members)
- Once he peaks the curiosity he **lays hold of you ... *grabs you tight ... overpowers you***
- **Satan’s goal is full control of your life and its destruction.**
Sexual immorality is his easiest in-road!

- The folly of this young man was that he had no idea that what he was about to jump into would cost him his life!
- **When men are seduced and seized there is always a price to pay that’s bigger than anticipated:**

- **The Slide — A Compromised Conscience (Samson, Judges 14:1-9, 10-21)**

- Samson had an amazing calling on his life!
- God established his purpose with his parents before his birth — to deliver his people from the oppression of the Philistines.

- He had a Nazirite vow, which included — **No dead carcasses ... no cut hair ... no alcohol**
- But Samson **drifted away from his destiny ... for some sex!**
- **Four times the writer says, “went down to Timnah”.**
- He saw the woman from Timnah and rationalized, “*She is right for me.*”
- *Right means ... “She fits my moral standards.”*
- *She looked so good to him, she had to be right for him!!!!*
- **His physical actions reflected Samson’s moral movements.**
- There is no way to separate our physical actions from our moral direction.
- That’s why the Bible calls sexual sin/sexual addictions — sexual immorality!!!
- The more you justify your steps, the farther away from God you get.
- A little peak here, a little look there ... **(E.g. NFL sidelines and cheerleaders)**
- Watching movies, porn sites on the web, hooking up with prostitutes, flirting at work, secret love affairs, touching little girls.
- On his way down, Samson tore the lion apart ... scooped the honey out of the carcass later.
- **Samson was touching dead stuff ... things outside the will of God for his life!!!**
- **Eating the honey reflects his appetite was moving away from God & consuming him!**
- The further you drift, the more you compromise.
- This is when it gets easier to justify. “I’m not hurting anyone.” “It’s what I need to keep me going.” “My wife is not cutting it.” “Porn makes both of us happy.”
- Samson had no idea how far away from his calling he’d drifted until it became clear he had no anointing left!!!!
- The drift is slow and the drain on your anointing can be slow.
- But one day you will wake up and realize that the presence and the power of God have left you!!!!
- One day he was tearing lions apart with his bare hands; another day his hands are tied and his eyes are gouged out!!!!

- **The Stronghold** (1 Kings 11:1-13)
- Solomon loved many foreign women
- Went after Ashtoreth (Ashtarte) & Milcom (Molech)
- Ashtoreth was the goddess of love, war, & infertility. Babylonian legend says she went into Hades to bring back her husband, Tammuz.
- The unsuccessful attempt led her to bring about the end of marriage and birth
- Milcom on the other hand required child sacrifices.
- No doubt, Solomon's love for women from every walk of life, was a stronghold!
- It led him away from God and toward idolatry.
- He built temples of idol worship all over Jerusalem ... even directly across from the Mt. of Olives!
- **The stronghold stage is when you have access to feed your addiction everywhere you go — cell phone, hotel rooms, computers!**
- **When sex becomes an idol and a stronghold in a man's life, he sacrifices his marriage, his children, his health, his career, and God's money.**
- Solomon took God's resources and built temples for his wife's idols!
- And you have turned away from following the God who loved you, saves you, and who can deliver you!
- I cannot talk about the stronghold of sexual immorality without talking about your brain.
- This is what makes the stronghold so strong!
- Paul says, it's mastering or exercising authority and control over you!
- (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)**
- **Our bodies were not meant *for sexual immorality*. I.e. not designed by God to function maximally, healthily for God's glory.**
- One thing to be clear about is our bodies are limbs of Jesus, temples of the Holy Spirit, and under the ownership of the Father.
- To join your body to a ***freak or anyone listed in Leviticus 18*** is to become stuck to them for the rest of your life. (v. 16)

- To engage in sexual immorality has a unique affect on your body, ***especially your brain!***
- Our brains are powerful pneuro-imaging centers.
- They are washed the most powerful opiates — when sexual release happens.
- ***Sex is the biggest chemical high we get in life.***
- When you release through sex or masturbation, with a real person or an image on a computer screen, your brain grabs images that it then associates with those experiences.
- Once it does, your brain becomes hooked.
- Hooked on the person, the race, the position, the image ... You develop an attachment and attraction!
- When you see a person in real life who looks like the image in your mind, the fantasy, or a person you are triggered!!!
- When that person is not your wife, your marriage is in trouble!!!
- When that person looks like your wife, you're still in trouble because you compare, but your wife can't compete.

- **The Suffering** (Revelation 2:18-29, Leviticus 18:24-25)
- Jesus had great things to say about the church at Thyatira. He loved them and celebrated their positives:
- Good works ... love ... service ... patient endurance ...
- They were largely an effective church ... except for the fact that they tolerated the Jezebel spirit!
- Whether it was a person or the spirit of the culture, that was acting out in the church ... Jezebel was leading Christians astray in deception, to practice ***porneuo — to do it, engage in it, to practice it.***
- At Thyatira Community Church there was no preaching and teaching about sexual purity.
- No one was disciplined and removed from the ministry for practicing sexual immorality. It was allowed to stay in the church.
- I believe the Jezebel spirit of sexual immorality, sensuality, and seduction was running rampant in the church and people refused to repent!
- Just like today!

- And the consequence would be a sickbed of suffering and tribulation!
- Bill Cosby lost his reputation and is serving time in prison
- Harvey Weinstein lost his media empire and will likely go to jail
- Kevin Spacey will likely never act again
- Jerry Richardson had to sell his team (Carolina Panthers)
- Matt Lauer lost his name, his career, his direction, and his wife
- Tavis Smiley lost his platform in the media
- Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th District retired immediately after 15 women came forward with accusations
- And the President of the US is losing his grip ... and hasn't said a single word of comfort to the #MeToo movement
- STDs ... Lives & dreams destroyed.
- We are living in a defiled land. Could God be on the verge of vomiting out it's inhabitants? (**Leviticus 18:24-25**)
- There is no life of sexual immorality that will not end in tribulation if there is not **repentance!**

- **The Steps Out** (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Psalm 37:23)
- **Repent (Revelation 2:28, 29)**
- **Relinquish** — Commit Your Sexuality to Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7)
- **Run (Genesis 39, Joseph)**
- **Receive Therapy (Romans 15:14)**
- **Repeat ... A Plan (Proverbs 16:9, 3) ... Include Accountability, Boundaries, Community, Spanking The Dog**
- **Rehearse** the Word
- **Read ... Cover Her, Dr. Doug Weiss**