

***For a man's ways  
are before the eyes of the LORD,  
and he ponders all his paths.***

***The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him,  
and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.***

***He dies for lack of discipline,  
because of his great folly  
he is led astray.***

***Proverbs 5.21-23***

## ***For the Men***

This booklet is a frank discussion from one man to another. Because of the nature of the topic and the candid way it will be approached, it may not be appropriate for some women to read, so I ask that it only be read by men and by married women whose husbands have read it first.

The Bible teaches us that our enemy Satan prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. He is real, he has the men of our generation by the balls, and he is tightening his grip. This booklet is an attempt to help you get your balls back.

## ***The God-Man***

The one thing that is worse than the current cultural trend towards a total redefinition of manhood is that the Church has not only stood by silently watching all of this debauchery but has become a willing and encouraging participant. The simple reality is that most guys spend too much time watching movies, playing video games, looking at pornography, and masturbating to be truly manly, and for men who claim to know and follow the risen King of the earth this is a shame beyond comparison. Consider the vision that John has of Jesus in Revelation Chapter 19:

**11** Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. **12** His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. **13** He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. **14** And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. **15** From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. **16** On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

While some may find it entertaining to picture Jesus as a meek and mild peasant from the backwaters of Judea, a caricature which was never true of him, it is certain that he is not that today. The humility that he showed in his 33 years on this earth must be seen in light of his true nature as the only living God who will not tolerate the weak, selfish, and sinful nature of mankind. “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” is the beginning of the knowledge of God (1 John 1.5). He is Faithful and True and comes to judge and to make war on the wickedness of every nation, and on the inhabitants of those nations, beginning with that nation’s men (Rev. 6.12-17, 20.11-15). And in that day every knee will bow before him, and every tongue will be forced to confess the previously hidden reality that he is the King of kings, he is the Lord of lords, and that he alone will define what is good, right, and true, and will decide whether or not each of us have attained to his righteous standards. In that day, only those who have in this life realized their utter failure to live up to his standards, brought it all before him, confessed it as sin, and repented of it, turning to Jesus in faith and trusting him to forgive their sin will be ushered into eternal life. The rest will go deservingly into

eternal punishment where they will enjoy the fruit of their sinful and wasted lives – men first (Gen. 3).

### ***Where Have All the Elders Gone?***

In 2 Timothy, Paul is writing his final instructions to his successor, a young and timid Timothy. In the midst of encouraging and challenging Timothy to be the man, the pastor, and the elder he must be to lead the churches, Paul gives him instructions on training others:

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Tim 2.1-2)

Paul admonishes Timothy to be strengthened in grace by Jesus, and to pass on the doctrine and way of life he has heard and seen in Paul. And his instructions are particular: deliver this sacred trust to faithful men who will be able to pass it on. Men. In 1 Timothy 3, Paul instructs Timothy to find men who can be elders, pastors, teachers, and leaders in the local congregations. In fact, as you step back and look at the Old and New Testaments, you see a theme: God calling men. It is blatantly true that when God has something he wants to accomplish, he almost always calls men like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Ezra, Nehemiah, Peter, or Paul. God is looking for a few good men. But the sad reality is that there are few to be found who have the character and the qualifications to lead in God's church, and the few that actually are qualified have often done a poor job of passing that on to the following generations. And so our generation, especially in the American Church, is one of effeminate men who don't know the first thing about responsibility, authority, or leadership.

Paul goes on in 2 Timothy to give metaphors for describing the kind of man Timothy must be in order to raise up other men:

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. (2 Timothy 2.2-7)

These are masculine metaphors: a soldier in battle, an athlete in competition, and a farmer in self-disciplined hard work. In my own journey, I began to look around for those types of men so I could learn from them. Sadly, there were very few left. Somehow the church had become a bastion for "nice-guys." It was just as Charles Spurgeon had said 200 years ago: "There has got abroad a notion, somehow, that if you become a Christian you must sink your manliness and turn milksop." Men were quiet about their sin until something drastic happened, usually involving a pregnant girlfriend, an addiction to pornography, or an affair with their secretary. They weren't living with a vision for truly masculine Christianity, but had become domesticated by

weak sermons from effeminate pastors, fluffy Christian bookstore theology, and Sunday morning love songs to Jesus. They were filled with the fear of commitment, the fear of failing if they commit to something difficult, and the fear of offending their domesticated brethren if they were to try. In fact, it seemed that most of the manly men were not in the church at all: the least likely demographic to be in church is men ages 19-25. At 18, their mom stops forcing them to go, and at 25 their wives start dragging them again. Where have all the masculine Christian men gone?

Consider these words from Dr. Larry Crabb from his book, The Silence of Adam:

What movement of the Spirit might occur if, in every church, a few men passionate for God drew others to relentlessly pursue God? What would happen if many of these men then related to one another with an openness that led to struggling onward together?

What would be the impact on families if men courageously faced the terrifying confusion in the world, and then remembered enough of God to powerfully and wisely move into their relationships?

What would take place in the hearts of women if men had a vision for their wives, daughters, sisters, mothers, and female friends, a vision they pursued with a gentle strength, and a poetic passion, that no woman had the power to stop?

I've written this booklet to add fuel to the fire of this revolution. I want to discuss the things that hinder us from becoming these men. And I want to paint a vision for a deep and abiding masculine Christianity that will change our homes, our workplaces, our city, and our world.

How do we become those men? How do we become men that are worthy of being called followers of Jesus? How do we become the kind of men who speak life into those around us, who serve with power, who give their lives for the kingdom, who selflessly serve their sisters, wives, families, and church, and who truly begin to turn the tide of weak and effeminate men in the church?

### ***Inherited from Adam***

To really understand what is going on with men in our day we only have to look to Genesis 3. It is no secret that every societal problem can be traced to the failure of men to be husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons. Men have failed, and will continue to fail, because they inherited it from their first father Adam.

In Genesis 2, God makes Adam first, and he puts him in the garden, and he gives him his Word: "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'" Adam had responsibility for the garden, for creation, and for his future bride, and he had the authority of God's word to

back him up. This is the biblical concept of “headship,” the simple fact that God says the husband is ultimately responsible to lead, guide, serve, provide, and protect his wife, family, and community. Once God made Eve, Adam was still responsible and in the seat of authority. She was his helpmate, and he was to lead her, care for her, and protect her.

Sadly, Genesis 3 records the story of man and woman’s fall from perfection. The serpent deceived Eve, and she did the very thing God had instructed must not happen. But God holds Adam responsible:

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

This is the most grievous passage in all of Scripture. As the serpent cunningly tricked and deceived Eve, Adam sat by passive and silent, refusing to speak the Word of God into the chaotic situation, feeling overwhelmed and confused, frozen in fear, and ultimately impotent. Adam failed because he abdicated his God-given authority as head over his wife and over creation, and having sacrificed his authority, he fled from responsibility by blaming his wife for his failure. Sound familiar? You are Adam.

### ***From Adam to You***

God has put in the heart of a man a sort of wildness, a longing to live for something, to have his life matter. It is his authority and responsibility, but he abdicates every time he steps into darkness, sin, and rebellion against God. Every time you choose to sin, you choose to hand over your strength and give Satan victory over yourself, your family, and your church.

See to it... that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. (Hebrews 12.16-17)

Esau sold his birthright – the inheritance and the blessing that was rightfully his – in a moment of carnal desire and lust. And as Adam’s descendents, we do the same. The Scriptures say, “man is the image and glory of God;” it also says that we naturally suppress the truth of God and “exchange the truth about God for a lie and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator” (Romans 1). We’ve been given a birthright, and we sell it on a daily basis for a few fleeting moments of pleasure.

## ***Sexual Immorality***

Before going on to paint the picture of true Biblical masculinity, I want to define a very important Biblical word. In Greek (the original language of the New Testament) the word is *porneia* and is usually translated “sexual immorality.” It is a catch-all phrase for any sexual act that is committed outside of God’s original intent of marital oneness and intimacy. Interestingly, *porneia* is where we get our word pornography. Sexual immorality is finding any sexual arousal or release from anyone or anything beside your wife, and therefore includes lusting over naked or partially dressed women, pornography in any degree, groping your girlfriend, homosexual acts, oral sex outside of marriage, sodomy, bestiality, voyeurism, child molestation, rape, violent sex, etc. Because the Bible is pro-marriage and pro-married sex, it necessarily says “no” to all the variety of wickedness and perversion of that original pure intent. Within the marriage bed, sex is to be free, enjoyable, and frequent; outside the marriage bed the Scriptures require mental and physical abstinence.

Many of you reading this are single, and this standard seems unreasonable or even impossible. First, let me respond by defining the gospel, because we must begin with the goodness and grace of God if we are to understand why he sets the standard so incredibly high. The gospel is fundamentally about authority; in other words, you must answer these questions before you go any further: who is in charge of your life? Who sets the rules? Who defines the good life? These are questions that drive to the heart of the issue because you will never desire or aim at God’s standard for righteousness unless, in your heart, mind, and body, you submit yourself to his leadership.

Many men never truly enlist with Jesus and so they spend much of their time and energy arguing with God about what is or is not sin. Consequently, they are like the fool of proverbs 26.11: “Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.” Have you ever seen your dog vomit, and then start licking it up? In the same way, God protects sexually intimacy for marriage for your good and your blessing, but the foolish man would rather tell God he is dull and old-fashioned while he stuffs his fat face on a large bowl of his own vomit.

Once you settle the heart issue, the first change you will experience is that you *want* to be obedient and you see just how attractive God’s vision of mental and physical abstinence until marriage actually is. After that, you will certainly still experience temptation and occasional failure, but you will want to fight with Jesus for this grand vision of holy living.

For you who are single, this article is not meant to make you more frustrated and discouraged in your faith. Clearly, if you struggle with sexual temptation, you’ve not been given the gift of celibacy. While most single guys are spending a ton of time and energy looking for the right person to marry, my encouragement to you is to first work on *becoming* the right person. So pursue God, work on becoming the kind of man worthy of one of his daughters, and then seek a God-fearing woman, rise to the challenge, win her heart, marry her, and take her to Hawaii and make sweet and holy love to her on the beach.

## ***Pornography and Lust***

You live in a culture that spends more money each year on pornography than country music, rock music, jazz music, classical music, Broadway plays, and ballet *combined*. I've seen many men in bondage to lust and pornography and have seen how it has crippled them in relationships, work, and living for Jesus. Pornography, masturbation, and lust are nothing less than a massive and all-out war for the strength of men:

Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? (Proverbs 6.25-28)

Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings. (Proverbs 31.3)

Lust is gazing upon a woman who is not your wife to the point of sexual fantasy or arousal. To notice that someone is beautiful is not a sin. To gaze with the intent of "checking her out" is the sin of lust. The problem is not the desire to see a naked woman; indeed, God has put in men the desire to see and delight in a naked woman – his wife. The sin is to mentally or physically delight in anyone other than your wife for your arousal.

In Genesis 2, God makes Eve from a rib of Adam and presents her to Adam as a helpmate, companion, and bride. Adam sings her a love poem, woos her, and takes her to bed. She was beautiful to Adam and he had no one to compare her to, and that is a wise pattern for every man. Your wife alone is to be your standard of beauty and the one whom you are to enjoy and delight in. Whatever your wife is, then that is sexy for you. Even before you are married, the standard of beauty is to be your future wife. Part of the problem with pornography is that it encourages men to be dissatisfied with their wife or to want a woman that cannot exist: your wife cannot be both tall and short, blonde and brunette, young and old, black and white, like the harem laid out in pornography.

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? (Proverbs 5.18-20)

As men we are to delight ourselves in our wife's breasts alone and to be intoxicated by her lovemaking. As one pastor has said, the only men who aren't breast men are gay men, dead men, and liars. All men are breast men; however, it is simply unfit for a godly man to be delighting himself in the breasts of another woman, whether at a strip club, in a porn magazine or movie, sliding your hands up your girlfriend's shirt, or simply by gazing at women in the mall or at the club. Lust is by nature insatiable, and

soon looking at porn and masturbating won't be enough, which leads to visiting strip clubs, soliciting prostitutes, orgies, voyeurism, pedophilia, homosexuality, and whatever other debauchery the human mind can dredge up.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. (Proverbs 31.30)

It is no secret that every beautiful wife eventually loses the battle to gravity and aging, and unless a man has determined to make her aging beauty his standard, he is nothing more than a fool. His only hope is to make a ton of money, grab a handful of Viagra, and find some gullible young hussy who will let him be her sugar daddy all the while waiting for him to die so she can inherit his house, his car, and his 401k.

Treat younger men like brothers, older women like mothers, younger women like sisters, in all purity. (1 Timothy 5.1b-2)

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31.8-9)

Men who view pornography render themselves incapable of seeing women as anything more than objects with desirable parts. They become unable to interact with and befriend girls as sisters, preferring instead to either lust from afar or become predators who simply use girls to obtain sexual arousal and satisfaction, all the while missing the depth of relationship that they long for. If we were to take these words seriously, we might instead weep over the abuse of women in pornography and fight for the honor and purity of our sisters as if it they were our own daughters being objectified and taken advantage of.

Diane Sawyer recently interviewed a porn star:

“Her composure cracked when Diane Sawyer asked why she always smiled. Tears came to her eyes as she said, ‘Because I like to hide — hide everything, you know?’ Then she began to cry, explaining that she hides her real emotions because she wants to show everyone how happy she is. ‘And I'm not happy ... I don't like myself at all,’ she said. She confessed she often felt physical revulsion during her scenes: ‘My whole entire body feels it when I'm doing it and... I feel so — so gross.’”

This young gal was the daughter of a Mormon bishop who confessed that often the only way she could make it through a porn scene was by abusing drugs just prior to filming. Make no mistake about it, the women you are so addicted to are abused, broken, and hurt little girls, and anyone of them could be your own daughter.

The simple truth is this: what you really want cannot be found in porn. Just ask Ted Bundy, whose sexualized violence began with simple soft-core porn found in a local

dumpster (you can read his story at the end of this article). You are not looking for a harem, a series of guilt-free sexual escapades with innumerable women. You are created for a passionate and intimate relationship with one woman, and that is what you are looking for, whether you realize it or not. Unfortunately, too many men buy the lie of our culture that you cannot be satisfied “with just one woman,” but statistics reveal that the most satisfying sexual experience is found in committed monogamous relationships.

### ***Masturbation***

Pornography has as its almost sole purpose masturbation. While it may be used for other things, mostly it is viewed by men in private for the purpose of bringing themselves to arousal and/or climax. Many Christian men have excused masturbation as acceptable because Scripture does not address the topic directly. Some have used the story of Onan (Genesis 38) who “spilled his semen on the ground” as proof of the sinfulness of masturbation. Unfortunately, the story is about the refusal of Onan to provide his dead brother’s wife with children, and has nothing to do with masturbation. It is as ridiculous an argument against masturbation as using Ecclesiastes 9.10 in favor masturbation: “whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”

So, if the Bible doesn’t mention it directly, what can we say? First, we need to define masturbation. I am not talking about a married couple manually or orally stimulating one another to climax, nor am I talking about the exploration that a married couple may engage in together in self-stimulation as they learn more about their bodies and what brings pleasure. Manual and oral stimulation between married couples is part of the freedom and celebration of sexual love that God designed and gave us as a good and perfect gift – and it is, within the marriage bed.

The problem is what occurs outside of marriage, and what occurs with married men and women apart from the sacred marriage bed. For the sake of definition, masturbation is the self-pleasuring of oneself to erection and/or ejaculation. It is important to realize that just because you don’t ejaculate doesn’t mean you aren’t masturbating.

Until recent years, masturbation was seen as deviance. But, times have changed, and it is now championed as normal and natural. Perhaps the best summary of the popular culture view of masturbation comes from comedian Jerry Seinfeld: “We all have to do it. It’s part of our lifestyle, like shaving.”

- 48% of men admit to masturbating once a week or more
- 44% of married men admit to masturbating once a week or more
- 68% of divorced men admit to masturbating once a week or more
- 13% of protestant Christians think masturbation is a natural part of adult life

So what is the response of the Christian man whose desire is to honor God with his body? Since there is no specific mention of masturbation in Scripture, we can use some simple diagnostic questions to help us determine what is right:

Question 1: Can you masturbate without lusting (Job 31.1)?

Certainly it is possible to masturbate while thinking of milk and cookies, and while it may not be a sin, it is certainly odd. While it may be possible, I don't think I've met anyone for who it is probable. Even when the act itself is done apart from visual or mental stimulation, lust is almost always involved in the time leading up to the act.

Question 2: Can you masturbate in a way that creates oneness with your spouse, pulling you together more intimately through the act (Genesis 2.24)?

Many newly married people, especially those who remain abstinent until marriage, report having no idea what turns them on and wonder if it is OK to stimulate themselves in the learning process. Sex is designed to produce oneness in the marriage relationship, and in that sense it is possible for a married couple to masturbate together as they learn to bring pleasure to each other and therefore deeper intimacy in their relationship. In this case, masturbation has the goal of creating oneness by teaching you how to give and receive pleasure. In this way, it should be a stepping-stone to free and enjoyable married sex and not an end in itself, nor should it be done apart from the knowledge and presence of the spouse, and certainly not before the wedding.

Question 3: Can you masturbate without experiencing shame (Genesis 2.24)?

Genesis 2 ends with these words: "and they were naked, and the felt no shame." In Genesis 3, after Adam and Eve sin, the first thing they realize is that they are naked, and that nakedness is a shameful thing. Since that day, sexual release apart from the marriage bed has been filled with shame. Masturbation is usually done in haste, alone, and in hiding because of the dread of being caught. And following release, the most common feeling reported is shame, humiliation, and disgrace.

Question 4: Can you masturbate with a clear conscience (Titus 1.5)?

We are easily deceived, and spend a great deal of our time and energy trying to convince ourselves that masturbation is not a sin, at least not for me. Part of your evaluation of it must be a deep heart searching, where you ask God to reveal your sinful desires and passions, so that you can genuinely repent of it. Your desire in life should be to walk in "the favor of the Lord," a phrase that accurately describes the pleasure of God on all that you do. Can you truly say that God blesses and delights in your masturbating?

Question 5: Can you masturbate without caving to your sinful desires (Ephesians 2.3)?

It has been said that men have a 72-hour sex cycle, where the fluids build up and release becomes increasingly needed. Because of this, many men argue that masturbation is needed in order to keep them from committing other acts of sexual immorality. Beside the fact that the 72-hour cycle is less than proven, the physical release actually functions in the opposite way: by frequent release, the fluid production increases, trying to keep up with demand. So while it may temporarily offer relief, in the long run masturbation is actually working against you to increase and encourage your desire for sexual release.

So, while it is may be possible for a man to masturbate without violating these simple biblical principals, the honest man admits it is highly unlikely. Consider these additional reasons why it may not be wise for a godly man to do so.

First, masturbation is a form of homosexuality because it is a sexual act that does not involve a woman. If a man were to masturbate while engaged in other forms of sexual intimacy with his wife then he would not be doing so in a homosexual way. But, any man who does so without his wife in the room is bordering on homosexual activity, especially if he's watching himself in a mirror and being turned on by his own male body.

Second, masturbation is often done in haste because of the mortifying embarrassment of possibly getting caught in the act. Subsequently, masturbation encourages a man to become a notorious minute-man who will not be well-skilled in the self-control necessary to satisfy his wife.

Third, masturbation can establish a pattern of laziness. If a single man wants to have an orgasm, he needs to first grow-up and undergo the hard work of courting and marrying a woman. If a married man wants to have an orgasm, he needs to undergo the hard work of loving, leading, and romancing his wife. But lazy men are prone to rub one out in the shower each morning rather than undergo the labors usually associated with married life.

### ***The Beginning of Wisdom***

Let's go back to that passage about Esau and his birthright. While Esau's failure in Genesis 27 had little to do with sexual immorality, the author of Hebrews says it is a picture of what we do every time we cave to sexual immorality. You and I have a "birthright" as Christians, and Paul mentions it in Romans 8:

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

You inherited from Adam a sin nature ("the flesh") that will lead you into sin. But Christ came to redeem us as men and to restore us to our rightful place as responsible agents over all of creation. You have born the image of the man of dust – Adam – and through faith in Christ you have now received the image of the man of heaven – Christ (1 Cor. 15.49). You are a new creation. You have been "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1.3). Therefore, this failure, this abdication, this flight from responsibility is no longer appropriate or

tolerable for the Christian man. You can still choose weakness and failure, but each time you do you are selling your birthright as a man of God, rolling over, and letting your enemy the devil have his way with you.

Just a chapter later Peter says, “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul” (1 Peter 2.11). Peter is urging us to flee from sexual immorality because it is so destructive. The power of sexual intimacy and release has great potential for harm when not developed within the context of the covenant of marriage. The author of Hebrews reminds us that once Esau had sold his inheritance he found no chance to repent, though he cried like a baby about it. For the man who chooses to hide his sin, to remain in it, to continue to walk in it, there only remains judgment for him:

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality... Do not even to eat with such a one. (1 Corinthians 5.9-13)

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality... will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6.9-10)

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6.18-20)

My hope is that these verses would teach you the fear of the Lord. Proverbs teaches us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and Jesus says that we should “fear Him who can destroy both body and soul in hell” (Matt 10.28). To fear God, to know that God sees our sin, and that we will reap what we sow, will help you to feel the weight of your sin rather than shrug it off as unimportant. God will not tolerate it, and everything done in secret will be brought to the light:

For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (Ecc. 12.14)

Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 23.24)

For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. (Mark 4.22)

God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (Romans 2.16b)

Every time you look at porn on the Internet, God sees it. Every time you masturbate, God is watching. Everything you do with your girlfriend in the privacy of your apartment is recorded. Every time a brother sins while you stand by passively, every time you lust after a woman who is not your wife, and every other sin you think goes unseen is not hidden from the almighty and holy God of the universe.

### ***Going To Battle***

What is the response, then, of a masculine and godly man? What is he to *do* as a result of this truth? Just as Christian men have done for centuries, the answer remains the same: he must fight.

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses (1 Timothy 6.11-12)

There are things we need to flee – our weak, selfish, lazy, and unmanly patterns – and there are things we must pursue – righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. The metaphor is the battle, the fight for the faith, God’s glorious men going to battle for the things that matter. The battle is going on right now, and if you aren’t in a constant state of fighting for yourself, your brothers, your family, and your church, you are losing. The sad fact is that most men have rolled-over and let the enemy have his way with them – *and they don’t even know it.*

The church in America is losing ground at an unprecedented rate. There are few elder men left who are able to teach, train, and lead the young men into this battle. The majority of church-goers are women (61% and rising, especially in the liberal and mainline denominations), 20% of women worship each week without their husbands, and some 90% of boys raised in the church leave by the time they are 20. The men that are left generally fall into 3 categories: effeminate men who feel comfortable with the overwhelmingly feminine atmosphere of the church; disinterested men who have been dragged to church by their wives or girlfriends and would rather be doing anything else; and predator men who realize that their odds are better at church on Sunday morning than at the bar on Friday night.

As a pastor, my great desire is to see men redeemed. I want men to enlist with Jesus, to go to battle with him, to submit to him as Lord and as King, and to give their lives for the furtherance of his kingdom. I want men to stand up and lead in their homes and in their churches. I want Jesus to be exalted and the church to be strong once again as

men repent of their lazy and unmanly patterns and step into the righteous rebellion against the flesh, the world, and the devil. I want manly men who work their jobs, eat their meat, drink their beer, romance their wives, study their Bibles, lead their churches, and raise kids in glory and joy.

God has called the Vintage Faith Community to this great and glorious work in this great and perverted city. There is much work to be done in exalting the name of Jesus in this city and in the world, and as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ you must throw yourself into this great work and stop wasting time, money, and energy standing on the sidelines with your pants around your ankles.

# Porn and the Story of Ted Bundy

The following is a conversation that was recorded between serial killer Ted Bundy and James Dobson.

**James C. Dobson:** It is about 2:30 in the afternoon. You are scheduled to be executed tomorrow morning at 7:00, if you don't receive another stay. What is going through your mind? What thoughts have you had in these last few days?

**Ted:** I won't kid you to say it is something I feel I'm in control of or have come to terms with. It's a moment-by-moment thing. Sometimes I feel very tranquil and other times I don't feel tranquil at all. What's going through my mind right now is to use the minutes and hours I have left as fruitfully as possible. It helps to live in the moment, in the essence that we use it productively. Right now I'm feeling calm, in large part because I'm here with you.

**JCD:** For the record, you are guilty of killing many women and girls.

**Ted:** Yes, that's true.

**JCD:** How did it happen? Take me back. What are the antecedents of the behavior that we've seen? You were raised in what you consider to be a healthy home. You were not physically, sexually or emotionally abused.

**Ted:** No. And that's part of the tragedy of this whole situation. I grew up in a wonderful home with two dedicated and loving parents, as one of 5 brothers and sisters. We, as children, were the focus of my parent's lives. We regularly attended church. My parents did not drink or smoke or gamble. There was no physical abuse or fighting in the home. I'm not saying it was "Leave it to Beaver", but it was a fine, solid Christian home. I hope no one will try to take the easy way out of this and accuse my family of contributing to this. I know, and I'm trying to tell you as honestly as I know how, what happened.

As a young boy of 12 or 13, I encountered, outside the home, in the local grocery and drug stores, softcore pornography. Young boys explore the sideways and byways of their neighborhoods, and in our neighborhood, people would dump the garbage. From time to time, we would come across books of a harder nature - more graphic. This also included detective magazines, etc., and I want to emphasize this. The most damaging kind of pornography - and I'm talking from hard, real, personal experience - is that that involves violence and sexual violence. The wedding of those two forces - as I know only too well - brings about behavior that is too terrible to describe.

**JCD:** Walk me through that. What was going on in your mind at that time?

**Ted:** Before we go any further, it is important to me that people believe what I'm saying. I'm not blaming pornography. I'm not saying it caused me to go out and do certain things. I take full responsibility for all the things that I've done. That's not the question here. The issue is how this kind of literature contributed and helped mold and shape the kinds of violent behavior.

**JCD:** It fueled your fantasies.

**Ted:** In the beginning, it fuels this kind of thought process. Then, at a certain time, it is instrumental in crystallizing it, making it into something that is almost a separate entity inside.

**JCD:** You had gone about as far as you could go in your own fantasy life, with printed material, photos, videos, etc., and then there was the urge to take that step over to a physical event.

**Ted:** Once you become addicted to it, and I look at this as a kind of addiction, you look for more potent, more explicit, more graphic kinds of material. Like an addiction, you keep craving something

which is harder and gives you a greater sense of excitement, until you reach the point where the pornography only goes so far - that jumping off point where you begin to think maybe actually doing it will give you that which is just beyond reading about it and looking at it.

**JCD:** How long did you stay at that point before you actually assaulted someone?

**Ted:** A couple of years. I was dealing with very strong inhibitions against criminal and violent behavior. That had been conditioned and bred into me from my neighborhood, environment, church, and schools.

I knew it was wrong to think about it, and certainly, to do it was wrong. I was on the edge, and the last vestiges of restraint were being tested constantly, and assailed through the kind of fantasy life that was fueled, largely, by pornography.

**JCD:** Do you remember what pushed you over that edge? Do you remember the decision to “go for it”? Do you remember where you decided to throw caution to the wind?

**Ted:** It’s a very difficult thing to describe - the sensation of reaching that point where I knew I couldn’t control it anymore. The barriers I had learned as a child were not enough to hold me back from seeking out and harming somebody.

**JCD:** Would it be accurate to call that a sexual frenzy?

**Ted:** That’s one way to describe it - a compulsion, a building up of this destructive energy. Another fact I haven’t mentioned is the use of alcohol. In conjunction with my exposure to pornography, alcohol reduced my inhibitions and pornography eroded them further.

**JCD:** After you committed your first murder, what was the emotional effect? What happened in the days after that?

**Ted:** Even all these years later, it is difficult to talk about. Reliving it through talking about it is difficult to say the least, but I want you to understand what happened. It was like coming out of some horrible trance or dream. I can only liken it to (and I don’t want to overdramatize it) being possessed by something so awful and alien, and the next morning waking up and remembering what happened and realizing that in the eyes of the law, and certainly in the eyes of God, you’re responsible. To wake up in the morning and realize what I had done with a clear mind, with all my essential moral and ethical feelings intact, absolutely horrified me.

**JCD:** You hadn’t known you were capable of that before?

**Ted:** There is no way to describe the brutal urge to do that, and once it has been satisfied, or spent, and that energy level recedes, I became myself again. Basically, I was a normal person.

**Ted:** I wasn’t some guy hanging out in bars, or a bum. I wasn’t a pervert in the sense that people look at somebody and say, “I know there’s something wrong with him.” I was a normal person. I had good friends. I led a normal life, except for this one, small but very potent and destructive segment that I kept very secret and close to myself. Those of us who have been so influenced by violence in the media, particularly pornographic violence, are not some kind of inherent monsters. We are your sons and husbands. We grew up in regular families. Pornography can reach in and snatch a kid out of any house today. It snatched me out of my home 20 or 30 years ago. As diligent as my parents were, and they were diligent in protecting their children, and as good a Christian home as we had, there is no protection against the kinds of influences that are loose in a society that tolerates....

**JCD:** Outside these walls, there are several hundred reporters that wanted to talk to you, and you asked me to come because you had something you wanted to say. You feel that hardcore pornography,

and the door to it, softcore pornography, is doing untold damage to other people and causing other women to be abused and killed the way you did.

**Ted:** I'm no social scientist, and I don't pretend to believe what John Q. Citizen thinks about this, but I've lived in prison for a long time now, and I've met a lot of men who were motivated to commit violence. Without exception, every one of them was deeply involved in pornography - deeply consumed by the addiction. The F.B.I.'s own study on serial homicide shows that the most common interest among serial killers is pornographers. It's true.

**JCD:** What would your life have been like without that influence?

**Ted:** I know it would have been far better, not just for me, but for a lot of other people - victims and families. There's no question that it would have been a better life. I'm absolutely certain it would not have involved this kind of violence.

**JCD:** If I were able to ask the kind of questions that are being asked, one would be, "Are you thinking about all those victims and their families that are so wounded? Years later, their lives aren't normal. They will never be normal. Is there remorse?"

**Ted:** I know people will accuse me of being self-serving, but through God's help, I have been able to come to the point, much too late, where I can feel the hurt and the pain I am responsible for. Yes. Absolutely! During the past few days, myself and a number of investigators have been talking about unsolved cases - murders I was involved in. It's hard to talk about all these years later, because it revives all the terrible feelings and thoughts that I have steadfastly and diligently dealt with - I think successfully. It has been reopened and I have felt the pain and the horror of that.

I hope that those who I have caused so much grief, even if they don't believe my expression of sorrow, will believe what I'm saying now; there are those loose in their towns and communities, like me, whose dangerous impulses are being fueled, day in and day out, by violence in the media in its various forms - particularly sexualized violence. What scares me is when I see what's on cable T.V. Some of the violence in the movies that come into homes today is stuff they wouldn't show in X-rated adult theatres 30 years ago.

**JCD:** The slasher movies?

**Ted:** That is the most graphic violence on screen, especially when children are unattended or unaware that they could be a Ted Bundy; that they could have a predisposition to that kind of behavior.

**JCD:** One of the final murders you committed was 12-year-old Kimberly Leach. I think the public outcry is greater there because an innocent child was taken from a playground. What did you feel after that? Were they the normal emotions after that?

**Ted:** I can't really talk about that right now. It's too painful. I would like to be able to convey to you what that experience is like, but I won't be able to talk about that. I can't begin to understand the pain that the parents of these children and young women that I have harmed feel. And I can't restore much to them, if anything. I won't pretend to, and I don't even expect them to forgive me. I'm not asking for it. That kind of forgiveness is of God; if they have it, they have it, and if they don't, maybe they'll find it someday.

**JCD:** Do you deserve the punishment the state has inflicted upon you?

**Ted:** That's a very good question. I don't want to die; I won't kid you. I deserve, certainly, the most extreme punishment society has. And I think society deserves to be protected from me and from others like me. That's for sure. What I hope will come of our discussion is that I think society deserves to be

protected from itself. As we have been talking, there are forces at loose in this country, especially this kind of violent pornography, where, on one hand, well-meaning people will condemn the behavior of a Ted Bundy while they're walking past a magazine rack full of the very kinds of things that send young kids down the road to being Ted Bundys. That's the irony.

I'm talking about going beyond retribution, which is what people want with me. There is no way in the world that killing me is going to restore those beautiful children to their parents and correct and soothe the pain. But there are lots of other kids playing in streets around the country today who are going to be dead tomorrow, and the next day, because other young people are reading and seeing the kinds of things that are available in the media today.

**JCD:** There is tremendous cynicism about you on the outside, I suppose, for good reason. I'm not sure there's anything you could say that people would believe, yet you told me (and I have heard this through our mutual friend, John Tanner) that you have accepted the forgiveness of Jesus Christ and are a follower and believer in Him. Do you draw strength from that as you approach these final hours?

**Ted:** I do. I can't say that being in the Valley of the Shadow of Death is something I've become all that accustomed to, and that I'm strong and nothing's bothering me. It's no fun. It gets kind of lonely, yet I have to remind myself that every one of us will go through this someday in one way or another.

**JCD:** It's appointed unto man.

**Ted:** Countless millions who have walked this earth before us have gone through this, so this is just an experience we all share.

*Ted Bundy was executed at 7:15 am the day after this conversation was recorded.*

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