

“Avoiding the Lion”

Straight Talk to Men (and the women who love them) About Sexual Purity

TEXT: *“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”(NIV) 1 Peter 5:8*

THE BIG IDEA: We have a fatally wounded but ferocious enemy who is actively seeking to destroy us.

*“But among you there must not be even a **hint** of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.” (NIV) Eph 5:3*

➤ **Sexual Temptation is One of the Lion’s Favorite Ways to Devour a Man**

He focuses his fury on a man’s two most vulnerable areas:

HIS EYES (*with “Store Bought” Pornography* – “depictions of erotic behavior meant chiefly to cause sexual excitement”) – Mark 9:47

HIS THOUGHTS (*with “Homemade” porn - fantasies*) – Phil.4:8

➤ **Christ’s standard – *lust* is an act of unfaithfulness Matt. 5:28**

*a female equivalent – comparing hubby unfavorably to the local “spiritual giant”

➤ **Satan’s Big Lie to Men – “*You can dabble in impurity and not get mauled.*”**

Three Absolutes You Need to Know About Sin

1. Sin always comes to light (1Cor. 4:5)
2. Sin always diminishes our blessings (Gal. 6:7-8)
3. Sin always decreases our influence for God (1Sam.15:22-23)

“Sin takes you further than you want to go; costs you more than you want to pay; and keeps you longer than you want to stay.” Stan Simmons

➤ **How To Live Well Among the Big Cats (6 Steps to Freedom)**

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it..” (NIV) 1 Cor. 10:13

1. Understand your vulnerability as a male – by nature you:

- are rebellious
- hate the “straight” life & find it boring
- have a strong, regular sex drive
- receive sexual gratification through your eyes

**VIP – a man’s moral failures are not a reflection on his wife; so ladies choose to be an ally of your men!
(A great read for both men and women – Every Man’s Battle by Arterburn & Stoeker)*

2. Become an Accountable Person

- ✓ Submit to an accountability partner or group (Eph. 5:21)
- ✓ Use a website like - www.coventanteyes.com
- ✓ If necessary, seek professional help

3. Pursue a Deep Relationship with Your Creator

- ✓ Pray/Worship (Psalm 37:4)
- ✓ Immerse yourself in God’s Word (Ps. 119:9-11)

4. Eliminate Bitterness and Fear From Your Life (pain producers)

- ✓ Confess (James 5:16)
- ✓ Repent (Matt. 5:8)
- ✓ Seek “deliverance” (James 4:7-8) - Let us help you!
(Pastor Fred’s office phone # - 252-6328)

5. Engage in Productive Activity

- ✓ Get & stay healthy (eat right, exercise, get some rest)
- ✓ Fill your life with family and friends
- ✓ Serve the Lord (2 Cor. 5:9-10)
- ✓ Cherish your wife or future wife (1 Pet. 3:7)

6. Avoid All Sexually Tempting Situations

- ✓ Flee from **anything** that could cause you to stumble [ie. T.V. shows, movies, 900 #s, websites, books, magazines, dirty jokes, alcohol, drugs, flirtation, immoral people, etc.] (1 Cor. 6:18)
- ✓ Take your thoughts captive (2 Cor. 10:5)

“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.” Job 31:1

