

“Avoiding the Lion”

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

PRAY

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

1. Two cartridges; love of Africa, (Ruark, Taylor, Bell), Read Capstick

2. No accident that the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to use a Lion

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

1. And, here is how he will do it!

*“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

Satan hates us; he is trying to destroy each of us, and he is succeeding far too often!

I am angry – at the devil for all the destruction; & at us for letting him win

I have no desire to make you feel uncomfortable (not condemned by convicted)

KEY PRINCIPLE

➤ Sexual _____ is One of the Lion's Favorite Ways to Devour a *Man*

1. *immorality* = illicit sexual relations (fornication)

2. *impurity* = gaining sexual gratification from anything other than one's spouse (an affair of the heart)

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

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

1. Read statistics (we live in a sexually charged culture)

2. The most frequent problem in my office (sexual integrity)

3. Denigrates women – affects our thought life and makes us vulnerable to sexual immorality

HIS _____ (with “Homemade” porn - fantasies) – **Phil. 4:8**
(1 John 2:16 sex, things, & pride)

1. Every man in this room understands the word “fantasy”

2. It is *universal*; it is *accepted*, & it is *awful* in God's sight

3. It is “athletes foot of the mind” (our thoughts draw us nearer God or ...)

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

1. We are warned against *impurity* in nearly every NT book

2. You women are asking yourselves “why do we put up w/ you men”

3. You are disgusting & pitiful (why ? because w/o God we are disgusting & pitiful)

4. How dare you compare me with an “airbrushed” image of another woman

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

1. VIP – My purpose and the 3 groups I want to address

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

1. Nothing could be further from the truth

Three Absolutes You Need to Know About Sin

1. Sin always comes to _____ **(1Cor. 4:5)**

1. God knows, and it is Him who I want to please

2. The important people in my life will eventually find out (Clinton)

2. Sin always diminishes our _____ **(Gal. 6:7-8)**

1. God's love is *unconditional*; His blessings are *conditional*

2. God desires to give us abundant life (health, wisdom, prosperity, and most especially *great relationships*)

3. Sexual sins function like termites in the walls & foundations of our relationships

4. Yeast tablets at the Bakery

3. Sin always decreases our _____ for God **(1Sam.15:22-23)**

1. Joan and the kids and the kinked garden hose

2. My passion in life is to be a powerful & positive influence for Christ

“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)**

1. Do you want to be free from a mediocre relationship with God & your wife?

“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 _____ as a male – by nature you:
 - are rebellious

1. Eve was deceived; Adam intentionally sinned

2. Stats on Men (90% of major crimes, 95% of burglaries, 70% suicides, 91% abusers of family members, 94% of the drunk drivers)

3. Men not yielded to Christ are dangerous

- hate the “straight” life & find it boring

1. 5 days of drudgery, 1 to play with the kids, 1 in church

2. The 3 % rule (people are angry & disappointed with me)

3. We crave danger and adventure (we get velocity and monotony)

- have a strong, regular sex drive

1. Men have a low grade sexual fever (72 hour cycle)

2. Joan & her small group (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday!)

- a. receive sexual gratification through your eyes

1) Men live in a *visual* world (images are VIP); women live in a *relational* world (communication is VIP)

2. Men and the chemical high they receive from sexual images (epinephrine)

*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. Read page 147 from Every Man’s Battle

2. Become an _____ Person

- ✓ Submit to an accountability partner or group (Eph. 5:21)

1. Every man needs a *real* friend (who can ask you 3 ?'s)

i. have you seen any sexually explicit material

ii. have you fantasized a romantic relationship w/ someone other than your spouse?

iii. Have you been in a compromising situation with a member of the opposite sex?

- ✓ Use a website like - www.coventanteyes.com

1. Six Godly friends use this service and me as their partner

- ✓ If necessary, seek professional help

1. Long term habits can die hard – there is no *shame* in getting the proper help

2. A Godly friend (Ed) who found himself enslaved to impure thoughts & actions ...

3. My Achilles tendon needed special help from a highly trained professional

3. Pursue a Deep _____ with Your Creator

- ✓ Pray/Worship (Psalm 37:4)

1. A good marriage, job, family, etc. cannot make you happy

2. Only relationship with the God of the Universe can

3. Connect with your Father everyday; several times per day

- ✓ Immerse yourself in God's Word (Ps. 119:9-11)

1. The written Word of God is our best offensive weapon

2. Find a protective verse and memorize it

4. Eliminate _____ and _____ From Your Life (pain producers)

1. Anger & anxiety sell most of the anti-depressants and fill most of the asylums

2. Pornography & its cousin fantasy serve as pain relievers

- ✓ Confess (James 5:16)

1. Lion's are most dangerous in the dark; so is sin

2. A young brother's confession & freedom

✓ Repent (Matt. 5:8)

1. 180 degree turn from your "stinking thinking"

2. Only you can decide if you want to be "holy"

✓ Seek "deliverance" (James 4:7-8) - Let us help you!
(Pastor Fred's office phone # - 252-6328)

1. Satan wants you to fear him or be fascinated with him (74 references)

2. Jesus wants us to "get saved, get well, and get going"

3. Kevin R. delivered of anger (1 John 4:4)

5. Engage in _____ Activity

✓ Get & stay healthy (eat right, exercise, get some rest)

1. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:18)

2. We needn't look like models, but we owe it to God to be as healthy as we can

3. "Fatigue makes cowards of us all" (Gen. George Patton)

✓ Fill your life with family and friends

**1. Only 2 things on this earth will exist in the New Heavens & New Earth
(the Word of God & the souls of men)**

**2. "The quality of your life will be determined by the quality of your personal
relationships"**

✓ Serve the Lord (2 Cor. 5:9-10)

1. We were hard wired at the manufacturers to serve; find a niche

2. We are creatures of habit; why not make them the best habits

**3. "Sow a thought and reap an act; sow an act and reap a habit; sow a habit
and reap a character; sow a character and reap a destiny."**

4. Jesus calls us to evangelism, discipleship, meeting the needs of the poor

✓ Cherish your wife or future wife (1 Pet. 3:7)

1. Read our wedding vows

2. Cherish = to treat with tenderness

3. Treat your wife with extravagant kindness because it honors God

4. The only thing in life that matters is obeying God; & obeying God is always in my best interest

5. Principle – act correctly and the feelings will follow!!!

6. Avoid All Sexually _____ 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)

1. Anything unsuitable for your kids is unsuitable for you

2. Don't give the lion permission to be in your home

3. We are no more spiritual than what we do behind closed doors

✓ Take your thoughts captive (2 Cor. 10:5)

1. A friend (Woodhead) and a co-worker

2. Controlling your thoughts is hard work; but the effort is worth it

CONCLUSION: Alexander Great (no self-control)

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

Prayer: Two responses today. Anyone who wants to draw a line in the sand and say I determine today to become pure. And, anyone who wants to be free from the power of sin, by yielding to the Lord and making Him “Boss”.

