

## HONOUR SEX: HOW TO AFFAIR-PROOF YOUR MARRIAGE (JOB: A MATTER OF HONOUR PART 6)

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**(Job 31:9-12) If my heart has been tempted by a woman, if I have lurked at my neighbour's door, then may my wife grind another man's grain, and may other men sleep with her. It would be shameful, a sin to be judged. It would have uprooted my harvest.**

Overcoming temptation is always a combo of RECEIVE and RESIST. We receive power and truth from God that empowers us to resist temptation (see last week's message for the full treatment on receive & resist). The first three points below are receive, and they are together as vital as the remaining points on resist.

### 1. Receive a high view of marriage

**Marriage reflects the Gospel (Eph 5v31-32):** *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church (Eph 5v31-32 ESV)*

**Marriage advances the Gospel (Mal 2v15):** *Has not the LORD made them one? ... And why one? Because he is seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth (Mal 2v15)*

**Marriage trains for the Gospel (1 Tim 3v4-5):** *If a man cannot take care of his family, how can he take care of God's church? (1 Tim 3v4-5)*

### 2. Receive a high view of sex

*There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much a spiritual mystery as physical fact (1 Cor 6v16-17. Message)*

### 3. Receive satisfaction from Jesus

Augustine: our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.

### 4. Lay An Anti-Affair Foundation in Pre-Married Years

### 5. Know that it happen to you, yep, even you

*So if you think you are standing firm, be careful you don't fall (1 Cor 10:12)*

*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for somebody to devour. (1 Peter 5v8-9)*

### 6. Avoid dangerous places/people

*At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice. I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment. He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house, at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in...(Pr 7v6-9).*

## 7. Be ruthless with early signs of attraction

*After desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death (Jas 1:13-15)*

## 8. Get accountable

Individual. Life Group. Church.

## 9. Feed the Spirit starve the flesh

Gal 5v16-26 says the Spirit and the flesh are in conflict...live by the Spirit.

## 10. Get involved in a war

*In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her...Then David sent messengers to get her....She came to him, and he slept with her (2 Sam 11v1-4)*

## 11. Prioritize your sex life

**1 Pet 3v7:** *Husbands, be considerate/understanding to your wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life.*

She has a more complex system of arousal

She responds to acts of kindness

She responds to relationship

She responds to verbal and he responds to visual

**Gen 2:24-25:** *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked and they felt **no shame**. 3v1: Now the serpent...*

**1 Cor 7:5** *Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

**Song 1:9** *I liken you, my darling, to a mare harnessed to one of the chariots of Pharaoh. 7:1* *How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman's hands. 2* *Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies. 4* *Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus. 6-8* *How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights! Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit. The fragrance of your breath like apples. 10* *I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me.*

The following sections are paraphrases from the following books: Maximised Marriage – Peter Howard-Brown; Finishing Strong – Steve Farrar; Practical Pastoring – Barney Coombs; The Christ-Centered Marriage – C. Mylander & NT. Anderson

## **12. Honestly assess your risk**

Dr. Howard Hendricks surveyed 246 men who were in the ministry and fell into adultery within a two year period of time. He found 4 correlations between all of them:

1. None were involved in any kind of personal accountability group
2. None were having a daily time of prayer, bible reading and worship.
3. Over 80% of them became sexually involved with another woman as a result of deep talking and lots of time together.
4. 100% really believed 'it will never happen to me'

### **Adultery Audit**

1. Do you have friend or group deliberately looking out for you?
2. Do you spend regular personal time with God?
3. Do you spend a significant amount of time with an attractive woman other than your wife?
4. Do you think it is unlikely that you will fall?

1 wrong answer = moderate risk. 2 wrong answers = serious risk. 3 wrong answers = severe risk. 4 wrong answers = dead meat.

## **13. Watch out for time-bombs**

A time bomb is a fault line, a character weakness, an unresolved issue, or propensity to sin that you may have. These problems may not be immediately evident but with time will explode, wrecking our lives. Examples of time bombs are an addiction to pornography, a deep insecurity that makes you look to women for affirmation, or bitterness and self-pity that looks to illicit sex as comfort.

## **14. Know the 3 types of adultery**

**With a stranger:** One night stand while travelling or out-on-the-town. Usually with a stranger or a co-worker who you spend lots of time with them and eventually cross the line.

**With an 'ideal' woman:** attractive to you in looks, personality, lots in common, great chemistry, admirable.

**With a prostitute:** anytime of day if you know where to look. Especially when travelling.

## **15. Watch out for seasons of particular vulnerability**

*1 Cor 10:12 If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall.*

Loneliness. Boredom. Stress. Disappointment. Self-pity. Midlife crisis. Traveling alone. Marriage problems. Towards the end of your 'race'.

## 16. Know the 4 stages of adultery

**1. Conversation stage:** Great conversation. Deep, sympathetic listening. Humour connection. Tender talk. There is emotional delight in one another and innocent touching. Red Alert: If you are looking forward to the next hug you're in trouble.

**2. Friendship stage:** In this stage the two are getting close but claim, "We're just good friends".

**3. Belonging stage:** The couple spends secret time together, unknown to the spouse and accountable friends. These secret times together are covered up by half-truths and lies. Phone calls, SMS's, emails, cards, notes, and gifts, as well as intimate talks and looks. The two become increasingly engrossed in each other and it spirals into sex.

**4. Found Out Stage:** Sin always gets found out and it ain't pretty: (Job 31:12) It is a fire that burns to Destruction. It would have uprooted my harvest. (Pr 6:26-29) *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? So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.*

(Pr 7:21-27) *With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life. Now then, my sons listen to me; pay attention to what I say. Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.*

## 17. Get 8 stakes in the ground

1. Avoid the exchange of intimate details with a person of the opposite sex other than your spouse.
2. Avoid physical contact longer than a hug.
3. Never counsel a woman alone. If that is not possible, keep the door of the room open with someone around outside. (E.g. Physio)
4. Avoid being alone in a car or house or room with a woman. If unavoidable, leave door open and phone spouse and another friend and let them know.
5. Ensure your own marriage is in a healthy place, including in the bedroom.
6. Have at least one close, accountable relationship.
7. Whenever you find yourself repeatedly thinking about another woman and enjoying the thought, seek immediate help from a trusted friend.
8. Be alert seasons where you are particularly vulnerable

## 18. For the victims of affairs

Don't blame yourself. Work towards forgiveness empowered by Christ's forgiveness of you. Don't feel that you have to trust him/again immediately; that grows over time. You can divorce (biblically permitted on grounds of adultery) but better to seek help and work it through. Press into Christ as your greater, faithful 'husband'. Overcome shame through meditating on your new identity in Christ.