

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO FLEE IMMORALITY

The following are the teacher notes from a Bible study lesson taught by Jim Lewis at Prestonwood Baptist Church.

Now this lesson is for both the men and women in our group, but I'm going to focus on the ladies.

Ladies, I want to talk to you about something that you won't hear much anywhere else. Most men don't talk about it for one or more of several reasons:

1. We are too proud to admit that we might be struggling with it.
2. We don't want our wives to think less of us.
3. Society has done such a number on us that we don't even realize the depth of our sin.
4. We actually enjoy our sin and don't want to be held accountable to stop.

What on earth could I be talking about?

Ron Proctor

I've been attending a discipleship group on Fridays. The men in the group are anywhere from 30 years old to 70, and our leader, Ron Proctor is 57. About a month ago, Ron made the statement that might sound shocking at first. He said that there are only 2 types of men that don't struggle with lust: dead ones and liars.

It doesn't matter whether you are in the ministry, read your Bible daily, pray without ceasing, sing praise songs while driving, or don't have any spiritual inclinations at all; if you are a man, you have to daily deal with lust.

Remember, I was at my discipleship group with Bible-loving, God-fearing, happily-married men. It wasn't a bunch of perverts sitting around the table. This wasn't a sexaholics anonymous group.

Temptation Everywhere

Where do the temptations come from? Everywhere.

1. There is the mom dropping off her kid at school in bike shorts and a jogbra.
2. There is the billboard with a woman in a short, tight dress.
3. There is the Ladies Home Journal with the busty woman on the cover.
4. There is the Home and Garden magazine with the Jacuzzi advertisement.
5. There are the Victoria's Secret banners in the mall.
6. There are the spam emails with pornography on them.
7. There are young women, even teenagers, who are scantily dressed in the worship service.

Flee Immorality

Wired Differently

Here's the deal, ladies. Men and women are wired differently. Foreplay for your wife is to take the trash out in the morning without being asked. Then you call during the day to see how she is doing. Then you give her a kiss when you get home from work and take the children upstairs for their baths. After dinner you wash the dishes. Foreplay lasts all day long for a woman.

Men on the other hand, are a little different. All the wife has to do to get her husband interested in sex is take off her shirt.

Men are excited first by what we see. This is why the spam email you get has scantily-clad women, not men in it. It is why 95% of pornography is aimed at men, not women. It's why the Miller Light commercial has two women wrestling in their underwear, not two men.

Midriffs and Raised Arms

It is why when we went to a church event a few weeks back, it was me, not my wife, who noticed that the leader exposed her midriff every time she raised her arms.

Laura Ashley

It is why before we were even married, I told my girlfriend not to wear her Laura Ashley dress to church anymore because it made it hard to concentrate on the lesson when all I could think about were her chest. We're talking about something from Laura Ashley, not Victoria's Secret.

My Wife's Leg

Do you know that during the worship service, I don't put my hand on my wife's leg for very long because otherwise I'll be thinking about her leg instead of the preaching? There are times when I position myself on the pew so that I can focus on the pastor instead of looking at another woman or even a teenager dressed provocatively. And ladies, I'm just a normal man with a normal sin nature. I'm not a weirdo. This is what men deal with.

Hockey Game

We took some friends to the Frisco hockey game a couple of weeks ago. The Tornado Dancers during the game are about 20 yards from our seats. Where do you think the 9 and 13 year-old boys wanted to be during the game? Down by the Dancers. It starts early.

How we should view women

One of the men in our discipleship group said that the way he tries to cope with lust is to remember that the woman he is looking at is someone's daughter. She might be someone's mother or sister, she might be another man's wife, and she is a child of God who is dealing with life's struggles and trying to live by faith. He tries to see her as a sister in Christ instead of a woman with shapely features.

Teach Our Children Early About Consequences for Men

OK. Here is where we are going with this lesson. Moms and Dads, we need to start teaching our daughters and our sons early. My five year old daughter knows that she gets attention if she shakes her hips in front of boys, but she doesn't understand that the attention is grounded in lust.

Young ladies know that they get men's attention if they dress in tight-fitting and provocative clothes. They know that if they wear shirts that expose their bellies, that men will notice them; but I don't think they understand the consequences for the men.

Pluck out your eyes

What did Jesus have to say about it?

Matthew 5:27-29

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; 28 but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. 29 "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

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In this verse, Jesus used a literary form called hyperbole. Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect, as in *I could sleep for a year* or *This book weighs a ton*.

Jesus doesn't want anyone to pluck his eye out. What he is emphasizing is the seriousness of lust. He is saying that lust is committing adultery in your heart. Lust is serious to Jesus. He emphasizes it by saying that it would be better to not have any eyes than to use them to sin. This is hyperbole.

Ladies, if it weren't for Jesus' death on the cross and His rising from the dead, then men would be headed straight to hell because of the lust in their hearts.

Sidebar - Survey

Let me tell you an interesting little sidebar. When I went to www.dictionary.com to look up a definition for the word "hyperbole," do you know what banner advertisement was on the sidebar? It said,

Take our survey to get \$500 cash. Who's the sexiest lingerie model? Gisele Bunchen, Tyra Banks, Adriana Lima, or Heidi Klum? VOTE NOW.

And it had a seductive head-shot of each one of the models. I can't even go to the dictionary without having to deal with lust.

Flee Immorality

Ugly for Jesus

This is important. There is no doctrine of being ugly for Jesus. Women are not forbidden from adorning themselves to look pretty, but there is a difference between trying to look pretty and trying to look provocative. A woman can put on jeans and a t-shirt and look gorgeous. She can even make heads turn. But the same woman can also put on skin-tight jeans and tie the shirt in front so that it shows some skin. Then she is not just trying to look pretty, she is trying to look provocative. There is a difference, and we all can recognize that.

We need to teach our daughters the difference. We start early by explaining about modesty. When they are old enough to understand, we start teaching them about the differences between boys and girls and how boys and men struggle with lust.

Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8 both teach that we should not do things that cause our brothers to stumble. It is just as much of a sin, maybe even greater, for a woman to dress provocatively as it is for a man to lust after her. Jesus said in Luke chapter 17 that it would be better to have a millstone tied around your neck and to be tossed into the sea than to cause someone to stumble.

Adornment

We also need to teach our daughters that their adornment should not be merely external.

1 Peter 3:3-4

3 And let not your adornment be merely external-- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

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Young Men

What do we need to teach our young men? We need to teach them to flee immorality.

Betty is 5 years old. Mary is 13 years old. Tina is 6 years old. Tom just turned 3.

If we went on a class vacation to Niagara Falls, how close would you let your children get to the edge? Would you tell them it is OK to climb on the guardrails, just don't go on the other side of them? In the 20th century, of the 15 people who have gone over the falls intentionally, only 10 have survived. About 20 people a year die going over the falls.

So, do you tell your child to try to get as close to the edge of the falls without falling in or to stay as far away from the edge as possible?

toe the line/mark

1. To adhere to doctrines or rules conscientiously; conform.
2. Sports & Games: To touch a mark or line with the toe or hands in readiness for the start of a race or competition.

Here's the question: Are we teaching our children to flee immorality or to get as close to the line as possible, without going over the line into immorality? Do we want our kids to toe the line, or to get as far from the line as possible?

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body. 14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May it never be! 16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body with her? For He says, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

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We need to teach our young men how to fight lust. They need to stay away from magazines with inappropriate pictures. They need to tell the young women around them when they are dressing too provocatively. They need to stay away from movies with nudity. We need to search the Scriptures and teach them what they say about lust. It is going to sound counter-culture and even prudish, but they still need to understand.

Have a Plan

We need to teach them to have a plan on how to deal with lust. Job said,

Job 31:1

"I Have made a covenant with my eyes;

How then could I gaze at a virgin?

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Job planned in advance, he made a covenant with his eyes, that he wouldn't look lustfully on a young woman.

Flee Immorality

If you're not sure, don't wear it

This idea of fleeing immorality works for the ladies too. If you are wondering if an outfit is too close to the line, if it is too provocative, then don't wear it out or in front of your children. Wear it for your husband only in private. You can dress as sexy as you want for your husband, just don't wear it out of the bedroom. Teach your children that if you are not sure, don't wear it.

Marriage bed undefiled

In the privacy of your own bedroom, feel free to wear whatever you want. The marriage bed is undefiled. No clothing is off-limits between spouses. The Bible advocates spouses pleasing each other.

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

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Proverbs 5:15-21

15 Drink water from your own cistern,
And fresh water from your own well.

16 Should your springs be dispersed abroad,
Streams of water in the streets?

17 Let them be yours alone,
And not for strangers with you.

18 Let your fountain be blessed,
And rejoice in the wife of your youth.

19 As a loving hind and a graceful doe,
Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;
Be exhilarated always with her love.

20 For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress,
And embrace the bosom of a foreigner?

21 For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD,
And He watches all his paths.

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1 Corinthians 7:2-6

2 But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

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The Challenge

Let's work on it. Too many Christians ignore lust as a problem. Let's start today to train our children and train ourselves.

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