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Sexual Sin and the Aphrodisiac of Power



Joseph and Potiphar's Wife (etching), 1634, Rembrandt, Rijksmuseum

Given the nature of the capital community, many people live away from their home environments for regular, extended periods of time. The temptation for sexual sin is ever-present, and I have seen too many legislators, staff, and lobbyists fall prey to it. Accordingly, the following Bible study contains some key biblical insights related to staying sexually pure in a surreal environment like the US capital.


Ralph Drollinger

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Former Cabinet Members / White House Senior Staff: Wednesdays 7am, Zoom.

Senate Members: Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served.

House Members: Thursdays 8am, AG Hearing Room, Longworth 1302, hot breakfast served.

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The views expressed in each Bible study are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study Sponsor.



★ PUBLIC SERVANT ENDORSEMENT

Kevin Hern

U.S. Representative, Oklahoma
1st Congressional District



“I look forward to the Capitol Ministries Bible Study and our time together each week to share breakfast and deepen my understanding of God’s all-powerful love and perfect leadership. The biblical truths revealed in our studies help to keep us grounded in our passion for God and His desire for us to become more like Him as a husband, father, friend, and leader. I am so appreciative for their commitment to the Word and the impact it can have on the world.”

— KEVIN HERN

I. INTRODUCTION

Power is an aphrodisiac that makes those elected to high office much more susceptible to sexual sin than those who are not in power. This Bible study is therefore important for someone in the public eye. The following are some biblical insights that relate to avoiding sexual temptation and sin in this area.

II. OBEY GOD REGARDING SEXUAL PURITY

No pragmatic means of avoiding sexual sin will ever supplant this first and primary necessity. One must first come to faith in Christ and experience the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit to bring his sexual passions under control. Even then, maintaining control is difficult in a sex-laden culture like America. Galatians 5:16 however does provide a *promise* that the believer can have victory and control over sinful sexual desire:

Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Salvation is the first necessity for walking in sexual purity. Without the indwelling Holy Spirit, God’s power cannot be enabled in us and implemented by us to give us victory over our fallen, fleshly nature.

Secondly, we must memorize and meditate on Proverbs chapters 5, 6, and 7 giving special attention to the passages that relate to the end results of *fornication* and *adultery*. We must possess a sober understanding of the real results of sexual sins to help quell the irresponsible, selfish urge to be sexual outside of wedlock. The results are manifold and deadly.

III. PROTECT AND NURTURE THE SEXUAL ASPECT OF MARRIAGE

Since most everyone possesses sexual desire, get married! Marriage is God’s intended means to satisfy and fulfill the God-given desire for sexual relations. If one does not have the gift of celibacy (and very few do!), then he should be seeking

to get married. Marriage is God’s delightful design for most people. Genesis 2:24 states in this regard:

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Becoming *one flesh* is a natural, wonderful propensity that God has placed in His creation. He created sex to be practiced within the confines and commitment of a husband and a wife (a male and a female) in the bonds of matrimony. States Paul in 1 Corinthians 7:9 in regard to this desire and its fulfillment:

But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

It’s not as if the One who created men and women with a passionate desire for sex doesn’t realize it or comment about it! But until marriage, God’s revealed will is complete abstinence. The fulfillment of sexual desires then should be an impetus to prepare in every way for attracting and marrying the right, godly person. God does not want those to whom He gave a sexual drive to be continually frustrated by a lack of fulfillment. Get married and then nurture the sexual aspect of marriage!

Surveys indicate that married people have much more regular sexual fulfillment than people who are unmarried. Within the confines of a marriage commitment a husband and wife can nurture trust and fulfillment over many years of communication and practice. Such is simply not the case outside of a marriage commitment.

IV. VIEW SEX WITHIN MARRIAGE AS GOOD

It follows that, for the aforementioned to be true, a couple must view sex within marriage as a good thing that God desires for each of them as a couple. God intends for their sexual desires to be creative, enjoyable, and fulfilling with their spouse as is evidenced in Hebrews 13:4:

Marriage is to be held in honor among



all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

God says the *marriage bed* (a polite euphemism for sexual intercourse) is not sinful in contrast to sex outside of marriage. *Fornication* is the sin of sex while unmarried, and *adultery* is the sin of sex with another person while married. God wants sex to be a huge blessing in your life within the confines of marriage.

The preceding two points, viewing sex as a good thing within marriage, are huge pillars in the quest to avoid sexual sin.

V. BE SEXUALLY UNSELFISH WITH YOUR SPOUSE

Once married, a person's body becomes the property of his or her spouse. 1 Corinthians 7:1–5 says:

Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 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. Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

God intends for spouses to be unselfish when it comes to meeting the physical needs of their mates. And due to the general lack of sexual self-control, explicit in this passage, one's mate is to be sensitive to the other's needs—to remove the temptation of sexual fulfillment outside of wedlock.

These three previous points can be summarized by the cliché, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Championing these biblical means for sexual fulfillment

will lead to blessing and much less temptation resulting from a lack of fulfillment.

What follows are some other preventative insights aimed at the prohibition of sexual passion resulting in sin.

VI. DO NOT ALLOW THE PLANETS OF PRIVACY, PROMOTION, AND PASSION TO BECOME ALIGNED

When the privacy of a hotel room is combined with the promotion of the Internet or pay-per-view television and the passions of unfulfilled desire yearn (stemming from not putting into place the previous three points), the temptation to sin is greatly increased with even the most mature, Spirit-filled followers of Christ. Therefore, one must adhere to the sage advice and wisdom of the writer of Hebrews (12:13) who said:

Make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

In other words, if one is serious about avoiding sexual temptation, he should plan out his life so as to avoid it! Travel with your spouse; stay with friends or business associates while on the road.

Do whatever it takes to avoid situations that have proven to be destructive in the past.

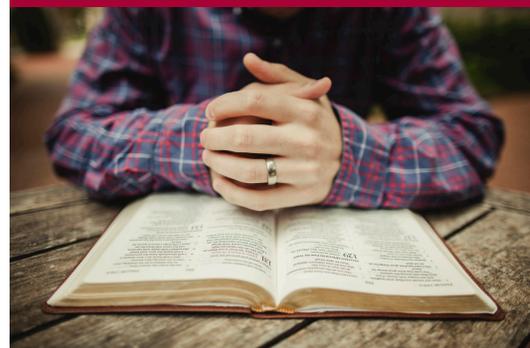
Since the advent of the Internet, the porn business is now four times larger than the combined total of the Hollywood movie industry largely due to the various new forms of private delivery and promotion of their product. Therefore, we must be wise and think ahead, creating habitual disciplines in our lives so that these planets do not align themselves—and the curses of the aforementioned Proverbs come to bear. Meditate on Proverbs 9:13–18 the next time you are tempted by pornography or *adultery*:

The woman of folly is boisterous, she is naive and knows nothing. She sits at the

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Galatians 5:16

Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.



Choose to be led by the Spirit.





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doorway of her house, on a seat by the high places of the city, calling to those who pass by, who are making their paths straight:

“Whoever is naive, let him turn in here,” and to him who lacks understanding she says, “Stolen water is sweet; And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

Lest there be any doubt about sex outside of marriage being sinful in the New Testament (NT), Paul’s letter to the church at Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 4:3–7) addresses sexual purity. He states,

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

Beloved, in the capital community sexual sin can destroy your life, and it *will* destroy your life if you let it get hold of you.

**Do not pander to your fallen
sin nature, rather mortify the flesh.**

The good news is that it doesn’t have to be that way; sex is not bad! God intends for you to enjoy sex within marriage. Notice what Solomon tells Rehoboam in this regard (Proverbs 5:15–20):

Drink water from your own cistern and fresh water from your own well. Should your springs be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be yours alone and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; be exhilarated always with her love. For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress and embrace the bosom of a foreigner?

Commit to the aforementioned disciplines so as to enjoy a fruitful and sexually fulfilling marriage!

If you want an excellent career, you must discipline yourself to learning. If you want excellent financial stability, you must discipline your spending. If you want a strong spiritual walk with Christ, you must discipline yourself to memorizing His Word. If you want great kids, you must discipline yourself to discipline them. If you want a car that lasts a long time, you must discipline yourself to maintain that vehicle. If you want a healthy body, you must discipline yourself in what you eat and how you exercise.

The same is true with sex; you must discipline yourself to achieve a sexually fulfilling life. As in all things, you must discipline yourself to do it God’s way. That is my prayer for you.

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