

SHUT YOUR GATES PT 2

God wants us to get radical in restraining ourselves from sinning. If we make the effort to restrain ourselves from sinning, God too will keep us from sinning. And he can! (Genesis 20:6)

We must take some practical steps to avoid sexual temptations. Keep your gates shut. Get rid of things which will stimulate your sexual desires. Don't go to places which are potential temptation spots. We must restrain our feet from going to such places. That is our responsibility. God is not going to do it for us. No matter how hard you pray, if you don't restrain your feet, withhold your hand, stop your ears and shut your eyes, God will not restrain you from sinning. When Eve was conversing with the serpent, God was there, but he didn't stop her. When she was stretching forth her hands to pluck the fruit, no Angel called her from heaven. When she was about to take it to her mouth, no voice shouted from heaven. It was her job to do.

Likewise it is our job to take practical steps.

Ps 119:101

I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep thy word(NASB)

Jeremiah 14:10

Thus says the Lord to this people, 'Even so they have loved to wander; they have not kept their feet in check. Therefore the Lord does not accept them; now He will remember their iniquity and call their sins to account.

We are responsible for refraining our feet from going to places of temptation. In other words if your usual place of shopping has pornographic magazines that tempt you, change your place of shopping. If the party you are thinking of going is being organized by unbelievers and the atmosphere will be saturated with lust, don't go! The Bible's command is to flee from things that will fuel our lustful desires not to rationalize them.

2 Timothy 2:22

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who on the Lord with pure hearts (NLT)

We don't mean business yet if we don't take any radical steps to avoid sexual temptation. Unless there is a physical fleeing, we are not that serious to avoid sexual sin. There must be a physical fleeing as well. It might even be doing away with the source of sexual temptation. Refuse to read books, watch films or listen to music that arouses sexual desire. If you have pornographic or sexually explicit materials, burn them. Check this out.

Acts 19:19

A number of them who had been practicing magic brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars (NLT).

Are you prepared to dispose off several millions of dollars if that will put sexual temptation away from you? Is that too radical for you? You should see Jesus' prescription for avoiding sexual temptation.

Matthew 5:27-30

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. 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. And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, 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 go into hell (NASB).

Once we haven't got to a place where we are gouging out our eyes and cutting off our hands, we should not think we are being unduly harsh on our selves. Listen to what Paul had to say concerning dealing with the body

1 Corinthians 9:27

But I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified (NASB)

Here, Paul shares something very interesting. Take note of the word Buffet. There are actually two English words spelt B-U-F-F-E-T with different pronunciations and meanings. One is pronounced b-a-f-i-t. This means to knock or push somebody or something roughly from side to side. That is what Paul was referring to. The other word is pronounced b-u-f-e-y and it means meals at which guests serve themselves from various dishes. The body can respond to both. You can decide to buffet(b-u-f-e-y) the body or to buffet(b-a-f-i-t) it. Buffeting(b-a-f-i-t-i-n-g) the body means bringing it under control to obey the instructions of your spirit. One way to do this is through fasting and prayers. Youths who engage in fasting and prayers can control their sexual desires better than those who 'buffey' their bodies all the time.

One other way to 'buffit', your body is exercises. The more physical activity to do, the more you are disciplining the body to obey you.

The basic truth about the flesh is that it can never be cast out. It is a part of us. We can only control it but we cannot do away with it. We will only be free from the flesh when the Lord comes and He changes these bodies of ours.

The flesh must be controlled and never allowed to do what it likes. The flesh is like a sheep which is prone to go astray. Without a shepherd's rod, we can never bring it to order. Rom 8:13, 1Cor 9:27

So run away from sexual temptation. A good example of fleeing Joseph in the bible. He refused not only to sleep with the woman but also to be with her. When it came to the worse he ran and left his coat. The young man without understanding run into temptation (Prov 7:7). What was he doing by the corner of a harlot's house at midnight? Comparing Joseph and the young man in Prov

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7, we see that Joseph was prudent because he decided not even to be with the woman, let alone touch her. The young man in prov 7 was foolish because he was loitering around the house of a harlot in the deep night.

Lust's favorite position is in the dark. It thrives in secrecy. I always counsel young people who have problems with masturbation and pornography that once they share the problem, it is half way solved.