

Temptation

James 1:13-18

1. The _____ of temptation
2. The _____ of temptation
3. The _____ of temptation
4. The _____ of God
5. Our _____ to temptation

"The Untold Costs of Sexual Sin" - Randy Alcorn

Whenever I feel particularly vulnerable to sexual temptation, I find it helpful to review what effects my actions could have:

- Grieving the Lord who redeemed me
- Dragging His sacred name into the mud
- One day having to look Jesus, the Righteous Judge, in the face and give an account of my actions
- Following in the footsteps of those whose immorality forfeited their ministries and caused me to shudder
- Inflicting untold hurt on _____, my loyal wife (and soulmate)
- Losing her respect and trust
- Hurting and embarrassing my beloved children:
- Destroying my example and credibility with my children, and nullifying both present and future efforts to teach them to obey God ("Why should I listen to a man who betrayed Mom and us?")
- If my blindness should continue or my wife be unable/unwilling to forgive, perhaps losing my wife and my children forever
- Causing shame to my family ("Why isn't Daddy a pastor/elder/small group leader/youth volunteer/Kids Ministry teacher anymore?")
- Losing self-respect
- Making it that much easier to give in to temptation (sexual or any other kind) the next time
- Creating a form of guilt awfully hard to shake. Even though God would forgive me, would I forgive myself?
- Forming memories and flashbacks that could plague future intimacy with my wife
- Wasting years of ministry training and experience for a long time, perhaps permanently
- Forfeiting the effect of years of witnessing to _____, and reinforcing their distrust for Christians/ministers (that has only recently begun to soften by my example, but that would harden--perhaps permanently--because of my immorality)
- Undermining the faithful example and hard work of other Christians in our community
- Bringing pleasure to Satan, the enemy of God, marriage, and all that is good
- Heaping judgment and endless difficulty on the person with whom I committed adultery
- Possibly bearing the physical consequences of such diseases as gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, herpes, and HIV; perhaps infecting my wife or, in the case of HIV/AIDS, even causing her death
- Possibly causing pregnancy, with the personal and financial implications, including a lifelong reminder of my sin
- Bringing shame and hurt to these fellow pastors and elders and co-laborers in the gospel:
- Causing shame, hurt, and embarrassment to these friends, especially these I've led to Christ and discipled:
- Invoking shame and lifelong embarrassment upon myself