

#5 HOW TO *HANDLE* TEMPTATION.

*No temptation has overtaken you
that is not common to man.*

God is faithful,

*and he will not let you be tempted
beyond your ability,*

but with the temptation he will also provide

the way of escape,

that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

THERE ARE ONLY **THREE** WAYS TO **HANDLE** TEMPTATION.

1. **YOU GIVE IN TO IT**: “What is natural and feels good the just do it.” Give caution to the wind, the animal in you says go with it.
2. **YOU FIGHT IT**: There are those who constantly battle but are constantly losing in the battle. They try to defeat temptation in the energy of the flesh.
3. **YOU OVERCOME IT THROUGH CHRIST**: Notice: (1 Cor. 10:12-13) You don't have to be defeated by lust. *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (13) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*

THE SOURCE OF *TEMPTATION*.

- TEMPTATION WILL COME THROUGH *THREE* AVENUES.

- A. THE *WORLD*.

- B. THE *DEVIL*.

- C. THE *FLESH*.

- 1. THE *EXTERNAL FOE-THE "WORLD."*

- Notice: (1Jn. 2:15) *"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*

- Notice: (Rom. 12:2) *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

- The **“WORLD”** can be **ANY BELIEF/ VALUE** system that ultimately drives a wedge between you and God. It’s contrary to His Holy Word.

2. THE **INTERNAL FOE**=THE **“FLESH.”**

(Gal. 5:19-21) “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, (21) envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- WHAT IS THE **“FLESH?”** It’s your **PREDISPOSITION** to sin/ It’s your old **“ADAMIC NATURE.”**
- BUT....I’M A **GOOD** PERSON: (Rom. 3:23) **“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**
- Notice: (Eph. 2:3) **“Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”**
- Also (Psa. 58:3) **“The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth.”**

3. THE *INFERNAL FOE*= THE “DEVIL.”

Notice: (Eph. 6:12) *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

▪ YOU HAVE A REAL ENEMY! Notice: (Jn. 10:10) *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”*

▪ Notice: (1Pet. 5:8) *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*

▪ THE “UNHOLY TRINITY OF TEMPTATION” IS :

1. THINK OF THE WORLD AS A LIGHTED MATCH.

2. THINK OF YOUR FLESH AS A POOL OF GASOLINE.

3. THINK OF THE DEVIL AS THE ONE WHO STRIKES AND THROWS THE MATCH.

▪ Notice: (1 Cor. 10:13) *“No temptation has overtaken you, but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”*

THE *SEAT* OF TEMPTATION!

- When temptation comes, it will be in *three* areas because that's all there is. Remember your nature is made of **BODY, SOUL,** and **SPIRIT.**
- Notice: (1 Thess. 5:23) *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- Remember: **ADAM** and **EVE** were created in the perfect image of God. After sin interred in, we are left with is a faint representation of the tri-unity of Almighty God.

THE FIRST SEAT OF TEMPTATION THE BODY. ENEMY FLESH!

- This is the **first** part of your nature that will be tempted because it is visible (**YOU CAN SEE IT**).
- Our bodies are nothing but flesh, an earthly monkey suit crying to be released. Therefore, your bodily appetites can be a seat of temptation.
- **Notice: (Matt. 26:41) “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the FLESH is weak.”**
- **Notice: (Rom. 6:12) “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal BODY so that you obey its lusts,”**

THE **BODY** AND IT'S **APPETITE**

- **MILK DOES A BODY GOOD, NOT SIN!**

Notice: (Gal. 5:19-21) *“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, (21) envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

- **WHAT ARE SOME OTHER SIN'S OF THE BODY?**

GLUTTONY, CUTTING, SUICIDE.....?

- **QUESTION #1: Why are sexual sins specified by Paul as being the only sins AGAINST HIS BODY? Why not, for example, drugs or alcohol?**
- **QUESTION #2: What is it in the nature of a sexual sin that makes Paul highlight this as being against a man's body?**

ANSWER TO QUESTION #1

- **ON THE BASIS OF OT TEACHING** (Gen. 2:24), *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”*
- **JESUS REAFFIRMED THIS** in (Mark 10:6-9), *“But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. (7) “FOR THIS REASON, A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, (8) AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so, they are no longer two, but one flesh. (9) “What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”*
- **JESUS WAS TEACHING** that sexual intercourse is not an inconsequential, isolated act but one **UNITING MAN AND WOMAN** in an intimate, complete, and enduring bond.
- **CONSEQUENTLY, HE IS REVOLTED** by the thought that a member of Christ's body should ever be united with the body of a *prostitute*.
- **IN CORINTH**, most of the prostitutes were slave women attached to the service of a pagan temple. It was commonly thought that any man having sexual relations with these sacred prostitutes entered into communion with the god of whom they served.

- **Notice:** (1 Cor. 6:15-20) *“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 prostitute? May it never be! (16) Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “THE TWO SHALL 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.”*
- **WHAT WAS ANOTHER *DANGER* OF BEING INVOLVED WITH A PROSTITUTE? IDOLATRY!**
Notice what Paul said about this: (1 Cor. 10:20-23) *“No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. (21) You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. (22) Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we? (23) All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.”*

ANSWER TO QUESTION #2

- **QUESTION #2:** What is it in the nature of a sexual sin that makes Paul highlight this as being against a man's body?
- **ANSWER:** Sins like the abuse of alcohol and drugs are more of **OUTSIDE** stuff being put in a body, but in a case of sexual sin, it's where you use yourself to **INTERTWINE** with someone's soul and thus creates a **SOUL TIE**. In any other sin there are not soul ties created. This also involves the **SECONDARY PERSON** while any other sins are done **INDIVIDUALLY**.
- **Notice:** (Prov. 6:32-33) *“The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it. (33) Wounds and disgrace he will find, And his reproach will not be blotted out.”*

- **AS FAR BACK AS THE *MOSAIC BOOKS*** we find some interesting references to sexual immorality and nakedness.
- **THE FIRST RECORDED *HUMAN CURSE* WAS OVER NAKEDNESS (Gen 9:20-23).**
- **NEARLY *TWO* ENTIRE CHAPTERS** along with many other references were a code of ethics on nakedness and sexual immorality (**Lev. 18 and 20**).
- **EXPOSED GENITALIA OR *NAKEDNESS* WERE COMMON IN CANAANITE DEMONIC WORSHIP.** Instructions and prohibitions to Moses were given so that ***ISRAEL'S ALTARS*** would not be like the Canaanites' (**Ex. 28:41-43; 20:26**).

- WHEN **MOSES** RETURNED FROM THE MOUNTAIN, Aaron had lost control of the people as they worshiped a golden calf, (Ex. 32:25). N.K.J.V. says they were "**UNRESTRAINED**" The K.J.V. says "**NAKED**," The Living Bible says, "**COMMITTING ADULTERY**," and finally the N.A.S.B. say's they were "**OUT OF CONTROL.**" All this happened shortly after a move of God.
- ONE OF THE **KEYS** TO OVERCOMING SEXUAL SIN LIES IN THE **MEDITATION OF THE WORD OF GOD**. This will nurture the fear of the Lord in you. For example, in (Gal. 5:19-21) the works of the flesh are divided into **four** basic categories **1) sexual sins**, **2) sins connected with pagan religion and the occult**, **3) sins of the temper**, and **4) sins of drunkenness**.
- It is interesting that **SEXUAL SIN** is listed **FIRST**, not only here, but also in several other scriptural references in the New Testament.

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES ON *SEXUAL SIN.*

- (Rom. 1:24, 6:19) – **UNCLEANNES** IS SINGLED OUT.
- (1 COR. 6:9-11) – **SEXUAL SINS** LISTED FIRST.
- (GAL. 5:19-21) – **SEXUAL SINS** LISTED FIRST.
- (EPH. 4:19) – **LEWDNESS** AND **UNCLEANNES** SINGLED OUT.
- (EPH. 5:3) – **FORNICATION** AND **UNCLEANNES** SINGLED OUT; LET IT NOT ONCE BE NAMED AMONG YOU.
- (COL. 3:5) – **FORNICATION** AND **UNCLEANNES** LISTED FIRST.
- (1 THESS. 4:3) – **SEXUAL IMMORALITY** SINGLED OUT IN OUR WALK OF SANCTIFICATION.
- (1 PET. 4:3) – **LEWDNESS** LISTED FIRST FROM OUR PAST LIFE.

THERE ARE **FOUR** SEXUAL SIN'S **RUN!!!!!!**

1. **ADULTERY**: Unlawful sexual intercourse involving at least one married person. Adultery is incompatible with the harmonious laws of family life in God's kingdom and is under God's judgment since it violates God's original purpose.
2. **FORNICATION**: Pornography, illicit sexual intercourse including prostitution, whoredom, incest, licentiousness (lack of moral restraint), and habitual immorality (would include sexual fantasies that lead to masturbation).
3. **UNCLEANNES**: Often refers to homosexuality and lesbianism
4. **LEWDNESS**: unashamed indecency, unbridled lust, unrestrained depravity (a disposition or settled tendency to evil, the innate corruption of unregenerate man), the person with this characteristic has an insolent defiance of public opinion, sinning in broad daylight with arrogance and contempt. Again, this often refers to sexual sin

- **Notice:** (1 Cor. 6:13-14). *“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.”*
- **Notice:** (Matt. 10:28) *“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*