

Why and How a Man Should Keep Himself Pure

When societies lose the directional parameters of purpose, they cast off all restraint.

The 1960s sexual revolution ushered in a degrading of America's young people. Now, the first generation of men who grew up with unlimited access to pornography are suffering unexpected collateral damage—porn-induced erectile dysfunction (PIED).

Put aside the spiritual and moral argument for a moment and simply look at the psychological and emotional effects. Young men are reporting an incredible disconnect with the women with whom they are physically intimate.

Rather than truly experiencing the moment with her, they admit to fantasizing about porn while they're with a young woman in person. They're mixing their virtual reality with reality. The result of such mental and emotional compounding is delusion.

The Max Planck Institute found actual evidence that pornography greatly impacts the brain. The more pornography men consumed, the smaller the brain striatum, which is the reward center of the brain.

Professor and author of *Your Brain on Porn*, Gary Wilson, argues, "The result in some internet porn users is higher brain activation to internet porn and less arousal to sex with a real person."

The evidence is clear. The more exposure to your eyes, the less reaction in your flesh.

Job said, "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman" (Job 31:1, NLT). Your relationship with

your wife will never flourish if your eyes are not fixed upon her.

With unrestrained access to pornography and semi-pornographic images blasted at us daily, how can a man keep himself pure? What's the answer? Do we put the burden on women? Cover them head to toe in black sheets? Veil their eyes?

A FivestarMan is gallant in his relationships with women. He treats an older woman as his own mother, peers as his own sister and a younger woman as his own daughter.

Solomon, a man who knew women far better than most, gives us powerful principles for keeping one's self pure:

- Pay attention to wisdom (Prov. 7:1-5). Wisdom is like a sister that gives you insider information about women. She says, "Listen, I'll protect you from an affair with an immoral woman and her deceptive flattery."
- Keep your distance from seductive women (Prov. 7:6-8). Sin requires proximity. Create boundaries.
- Don't give an ear to seductive words (Prov. 7:5). Don't allow a woman to whisper in your ear.
- Go home after work (Prov. 7:9). Men make bad decisions when they don't have direction.
- Bounce your eyes from the brazen look (Prov. 7:13). Follow the example of Job. Make a covenant, a spiritual promise, with your eyes to not look lustfully. We've all seen the guy who looks googly-eyed at a woman. Imagine if you saw a man looking that way at your wife or daughter. Don't be that guy.
- Know the difference between lust and love (Prov. 7:23). Lust is a manic, obsessive and uncontrolled desire to take something or someone. Lust takes while love gives. God is love—God is holy; therefore, love must be holy. Contrary to popular culture, love is confined to righteousness established by God.
- Honor another man's wife (Prov. 7:19). We should

practice a man-code. Job recognized that looking upon a woman lustfully opened the door for his wife to serve another man (Job 31:10).

- Don't be persuaded (Prov. 7:21). Seduction comes from flattery, a type of witchcraft. It's a manipulation by deception.
- Understand that impurity is a trap (Prov. 7:22). Men often say, "I'm a grown man, I am free to do what I want." In reality, sexual sin is addictive and is a trap that enslaves men.
- Remember the immoral woman will embarrass you (Prov. 7:26). You will be victimized. You're better than sexual sin. Your purpose is greater than fantasies.
- Consider that the immoral woman will escort you to your death (Prov. 7:27). There's nothing to gain in your life in the secret chambers of porn.

A man who stays within the parameters of his purpose doesn't have time for trivial pursuits. Take the energy and time that pornography demands, invest it into a real relationship and fulfill your purposes as an authentic man.

Keeping yourself pure is not easy, but the rewards of doing so are immeasurable. The sexual relationship with your wife will become a celebration of your lives together. Your physical connection will be more enjoyable. Your emotional connection will be passionate. And your spiritual communion will be ecstatic. {eoa}

*FivestarMan was founded in 2008 by **Neil Kennedy**. Kennedy has passionately promoted God's Word for 25-plus years of ministry. He is known for practically applying biblical principles that elevate people to a new level of living. As a business, church, ministry and life consultant, Kennedy has helped others strategize the necessary steps to reach their full potential.*

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