

## The Cost of Sexual Sin . . .

He had every reason and every opportunity to live an exemplary life. His parents set a positive tone at home. They knew he would be a strong leader. In fact, his extraordinary feats made him famous. Clearly, he had God's blessing on his life. But in spite of great ability and great advantage, his moral failure proved to be at great cost. This man has continually been remembered for both his immense strength and his immense weakness. How different the life of Samson would have been if only he had maintained his sexual integrity and had avoided the lure that led to his ultimate destruction.

*"The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said,  
'See if you can lure him into showing you the secret  
of his great strength and how we can overpower him  
so we may tie him up and subdue him.'"*  
(Judges 16:5)

## Myths About Sex

- **Myth:** "All is fair in love and war."

**Truth:** The basis of love is sacrifice, not fairness.

*"This is how we know what love is:  
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.  
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."*  
(1 John 3:16)

- **Myth:** "Multiple sex partners give me more experience."

**Truth:** Multiple experiences breed comparisons and dissatisfactions.

*"Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure."*  
(1 Timothy 5:22)

- **Myth:** "As long as I'm not married, I should be able to have sex with whomever I want."

**Truth:** The only instance where God blesses two people in a sexual relationship is within a husband and wife marital relationship.

*"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother  
and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."*  
(Genesis 2:24)

## Questions and Answers

### ***"Is sexual temptation a sin?"***

No. Temptation is not a sin, but to entice someone to be tempted is a sin. We are all tempted in different areas. The issue is whether we give in to temptation or not. The Bible says,

*"We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize  
with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted  
in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin."*  
(Hebrews 4:15)

### ***"How can I resist giving in to sexual temptation?"***

How many times have you found yourself in a situation where, ahead of time, you should have determined how you would respond to temptation? Then, in the heat of the moment, you acted. And later you realized, with regret, that you had made the wrong decision?

Many of your decisions need to be made prior to when they are needed. This involves knowing the end result you desire and then committing yourself to a plan to achieve that desire. In the Bible, Job had such a plan in order to maintain his purity. He made a commitment—a covenant vow before God . . .

*"I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl."*  
(Job 31:1)

### ***"But what if it's too late?"***

You cannot take back sexually what has been given any more than you can take back that which has been spoken. However, that which has been lost—virginity—can be reclaimed. As you have opened your heart to the Lord and as you have begun to desire His best, you can come to know Him as Redeem and Restorer.

You can choose what is called "secondary virginity," and He will empower you to have victory over the past. God intends your sexuality to be a wonderful present to your future marriage partner. From this point on, save yourself for the one God has saved for you.

*"Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me."*  
(Psalm 51:10)

## The Underlying Reasons for “Giving in”

While Samson relied on God for his physical strength, he never saw his need for strength of character. In time, Samson’s lack of character cost him not only his liberty, but also his life.

*“He did not know that the LORD had left him.*

*Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes. . . . Burning him*

*. . . they set him to grinding in the prison. . . .*

*Samson said, ‘Let me die with the Philistines!’ . . .*

*He killed many more when he died than while he lived.”*

*(Judges 16:20–21, 30)*

- “He said that if I didn’t have sex, he would find someone else.”  
Then tell him to find someone else.  
— If he is willing to have sex with anyone available, then he has no commitment to you. This is not a person who cares about you.
- “I was curious.”  
You can be curious about arsenic, but you don’t have to drink it.”  
— You can be curious about many things, but the appropriate time for a sexual relationship is within a committed marriage relationship. If you put your trust in God’s timing, your curiosity will give way to contentment.
- “I thought I could hold on to him if I had sex.”  
If that’s the only way to hold on to him, then you really do not want him.  
— Don’t allow yourself to be that desperate. You are more valuable than that.
- “I just wanted to feel loved.”  
Sex is not love, love is not sex. Animals have sex with no commitment of love, whereas humans need a relationship based on love.  
— A sexual relationship without a commitment is not based on love but on lust.

*“Can a man scoop fire into his lap  
without his clothes being burned?”*

*(Proverbs 6:27)*

## Reasons for Sexual Integrity

No comparison has more contrast than the exemplary life of Joseph and the carnal life of Samson. Joseph was full of self-control and integrity. Samson was led by his passions. Joseph forgave his “enemy.” Samson began at the top and descended to a slave.

*“The righteousness of the upright delivers them,  
but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.”*

*(Proverbs 11:6)*

Joseph delivered Israel as an extraordinary man of integrity during his life. Samson delivered Israel as an imprisoned blind man by his death. (See Judges 16:21–30.)

“I want God’s blessing on my life.”

*“Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing  
to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

*(Romans 12:1)*

“I don’t want to do anything that will hinder my prayer life with God.”

*“If I had cherished sin in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.”*

*(Psalm 66:18)*

“I don’t want anyone else to take the place of God in my life.”

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*

*(Matthew 22:37)*

“I want to live a life of integrity, being the same in the dark as I am in the light.”

*“I will not deny my integrity.”*

*(Job 27:5)*

“I want others to see the power of Christ in me.”

*“His divine power has given us everything we need for life  
and godliness through our knowledge of him  
who called us by his own glory and goodness.”*

*(2 Peter 1:3)*

## Key Verses to Memorize

*“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”*

**(1 Corinthians 6:19–20)**

## Practical Steps for Sexual Purity<sup>1</sup>

Have you stared into a still, pristine lake nestled in the crevice of a mountain? Just as beautiful are two sexually pure lives that come together for physical fulfillment within marriage. Even if you suffer from sexual impurity, that which is *impure* can once again become *spiritually* clean.

*“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”*  
(Hebrews 10:22)

- Write out your vow to be sexually pure from this day on.  
*“When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow.”* (Ecclesiastes 5:4)
- Find friends who hold the same commitment.  
*“Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”* (Philippians 2:2)
- Pray for the right accountability partner.  
*“Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.”* (Proverbs 27:6)
- Develop a proactive strategy for countering sexual triggers.  
*“Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men.”* (Proverbs 4:14)
- Make a list of your goals in life.  
*“We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* (Ephesians 2:10)
- Wear a chastity ring, bracelet, or necklace.  
*“Then will I ever sing praise to your name and fulfill my vows day after day.”* (Psalm 61:8)
- Write a love letter to your future mate.  
*“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”* (Hebrews 13:4)
- Lend a hand in helping others.  
*“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16)
- Rely on the spiritual beliefs or teachings of your church.  
*“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”* (1 Corinthians 16:13)
- Make a Promise List.  
*“Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”*  
(2 Corinthians 7:1)

## Invest in Integrity

Heroes are needed. Heroes who possess what they profess . . . who reflect the moral standards they represent . . . who are worthy of imitation . . . who have sexual integrity. Others find hope in heroes who hold to their persuasions no matter the pressure put on them to recant their resolves and change their convictions. The need is great for heroes!

*“Though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.”*  
(Genesis 39:10)

**I**nvite others to walk the road of sexual integrity with you.

*“Two are better than one . . . If one falls down, his friend can help him up.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10)

**N**ever put yourself or your loved one in a tempting situation.

*“Do not offer the parts of your body to sin . . . but rather offer yourselves to God.”* (Romans 6:13)

**T**rust God to meet your need for love in the future.

*“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.”* (Psalm 143:8)

**E**njoy others instead of using others.

*“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.”*  
(Romans 12:10)

**G**ive yourself only to sexually pure relationships.

*“You have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers.”* (1 Peter 1:22)

**R**efuse to justify all sexual impurity.

*“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”*  
(Matthew 26:41)

**I**solate yourself from tempting people.

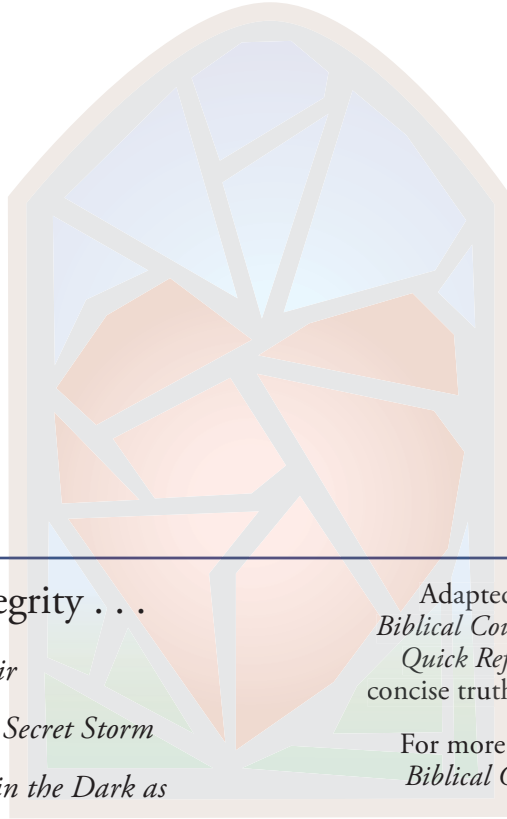
*“Bad company corrupts good character.”*  
(1 Corinthians 15:33)

**T**ransform your mind through the written Word of God.

*“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”* (Psalm 119:11)

**Y**ield to Christ, who lives in you, trusting Him to produce in you a life of purity.

*“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. . . . Apart from me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:3–5)



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1. For this section, see Marilyn Morris, *ABC's of the Birds and Bees for Parents of Toddlers to Teens*, 2nd ed. (Dallas: Charles River, 2000), 297–300. Used by permission.