

## LIVING A LIFE OF PURITY IN AN IMMORAL WORLD

James 1.13-15

BTTB story – that was a seminal moment of awareness.

The better we understand where lust begins, the better we can combat this temptation and find help for living a life of purity in an immoral world.

Turn to my least favorite passage in the Bible – James 1.13-15

### WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF (Sexual) TEMPTATION vv13-15

1b. The Source is not God v13

He is not to blame.

1c. God cannot be tempted by evil. He is holy, absolute holiness

2c. He does not tempt anyone. Simply stated, He doesn't do that.

God does test but He does not tempt

2b. The Source is Our Self v14

Our sinful behavior originates in our heart.

It is true Satan is a tempter, but notice, he is not mentioned in v14

We are lured and take the bait because we are susceptible to it.

3b. The Sequence of Temptation vv14, 15

1c. It begins with our desire, with what lurks in our heart  
It is the beginning of a process that ends in sin

2c. We fail to resist  
Instead, we are lured and enticed  
Image of a lure alerts us to the ability of sin to mask itself, appear harmless, but have dire consequences

3c. The result is sin with its consequences.

Here is what bothers me, and I hope to make it bother you:

There is wickedness within (Your Name).

It starts with what is in [Your name's] heart.

These evil desires are there whether we act on them or not.

"We have met the enemy and he is us." Pogo

So how did they get there? How did they get inside me, of you?

Discuss

## HOW DO WE COMBAT SEXUAL TEMPTATION

When you plan your response in advance, you prepare yourself to be successful.

1. Deal with what is inside of you

Pray 'The Christian Sinner's Prayer' – Psalm 139.23-24 –

Make personal and specific Romans 6.1,2 –

What shall \_\_\_\_\_ say then? Is \_\_\_\_\_ to continue in \_\_\_\_\_ that grace may abound? By no means! How can \_\_\_\_\_ who died to \_\_\_\_\_ still live in it?"

2. Intentionally change your thinking - Reprogram your brain Romans 12.1,2

3. Practical advice

Guidelines: External actions

Do a risk assessment

Be (proactively) accountable – software, friend, spouse

Have a Code word

The Internet is not always my friend, it sometimes is my enemy.

Stay visible & Never counsel a woman alone

Look 'em in the eyes

Guardrails: Internal cleanse

Lingering eyes – sin is when the glance becomes a gaze

Thoughts only you know about

What you read, see, and hear

The bottom line: Thoughts Matter