

Coat Tales (Joseph, Part 2)

Genesis 39:7-12 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

BENEFITS OF A PURE LIFE:

- **SALVATION – Matthew 5:8** Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- **SANCTIFICATION – 1 John 3:3** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.
- **CONFIDENCE – Hebrews 10:22** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.
- **ANOINTING – Hebrews 1:9** Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

THE WORLD TEMPTS ME TO HAVE AN IMPURE MIND AND LIFE.

While I am trying to lead a decent, restrained life, TV and movies propagate the notion that everybody else is having a wild, debauched time and that I may be missing out.

That is the power of mass media – the power to redefine normal.

The harmful behavior that we see glamorized not only conveys powerful messages of what's ACCEPTED, but what is EXPECTED. The unreal world of the media becomes, over time, a self-fulfilling prophecy.

About 350 characters appear each night on prime-time TV, with an average of 7 of them murdered every night. If this rate applied in reality, then in just two months, everyone in North America would be killed – and the last one left could turn off the TV!

Every year on prime-time TV, there are 65,000 sexual references. Seven out of eight of the sexual encounters in TV dramas involve extra-marital relations. Reality? A 1994 University of Chicago study showed that both sexual satisfaction and frequency is greater among married people than among single people. But in Hollywood, the only kind of sex that seems to be banned is intimacy between husband and wife!

Another landmark study in 1994 (Sex In America: A Definitive Survey) found that marital fidelity is much stronger than the media portrays. 80% of women and 65% of men had no other partners other than their spouses. The study's findings lend "no support to the notion of a promiscuous society." It also gave statistical support to the findings of several other studies showing that those who live together before marriage have less stable marriages if and when they do get married. 57% of respondents were either "extremely happy" or "very happy" with their marriages, another 30% were "generally satisfied," and only 13% were either "fairly unhappy" or "unhappy most of the time."

The authors of this study encountered "a palpable fear of what sex researchers might discover" – in other words, past researchers didn't want to reexamine their conclusions in light of the actual statistics! These authors presented an exceptional picture of the damage that BAD survey data can have on an entire nation. For example, the incredibly ill-designed surveys of the past (like the Kinsey Reports in the 1950s) warped America's views on sexuality and helped birth the "free love" of the 1960s. Alfred Kinsey's work is frequently referenced to support the notion that 10% of the American population is homosexual. The truth? Only 1.4% of women and 2.8% of men are homosexual OR bisexual!

UCLA sociologist James Q. Wilson points out a curious fact: On city streets where broken windows have gone unrepaired, the crime rate immediately soars. Why? The broken windows make an announcement to the public: Here, standards have broken down. Here, no authority applies. Do what you like, without consequences. That is what the media has done to us! TV and movies have become a gigantic broken window to the world. The portrayal of life without standards and behavior without consequences sends out a message that impurity is normal!

The sad thing is that the distinction between the world and so-called "Christianity" is quickly evaporating. With the Internet providing both instant availability and the appearance of anonymity, pornography is one of the fastest growing addictions plaguing our society. A recent George Barna survey revealed there is no statistical difference in pornography use between those who regularly attend church and those who don't. The 1994 survey mentioned above found that 41% of all men, including conservative Christians, had an encounter with sexually explicit material or sex clubs in the past twelve months.

I NEED GOD'S WORD IF I'M GOING TO HAVE A PURE MIND!

Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

THE BIBLE EMPHATICALLY TEACHES THAT YOU CAN COMMIT SEXUAL SIN WITHOUT EVEN INVOLVING YOUR BODY!

Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

HOW TO AVOID SEXUAL TEMPTATION:

- **Recognize the consequences of sexual sin.**

Proverbs 6:32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

- **Accept responsibility for yourself.**

We make excuses based on the false assumption that we can never change our actions until we first experience a change of feeling.
(changed feelings = changed thinking = changed behavior)

The practical truth for someone in bondage is actually the reverse!
(changed behavior = changed thinking = changed feelings)

- **RUN!**

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

Joseph was a COWARD when it came to sexual temptation. He didn't try to see how strong he was. He didn't play with it. HE RAN! If you've messed up, that's what the grace of God is for. Don't go back to your sin. Don't even look back. LEAVE YOUR COAT!

Joseph lost his **FIRST** coat in a time of **TRIBULATION** at the hand of his brethren – but he **FORGAVE** them.

Joseph lost his **SECOND** coat in a time of **TEMPTATION** at the hand of Potiphar's wife – but he **RAN** from her.