

Brent Alderman  
240.818.3053

[brent.alderman@capitolcom.org](mailto:brent.alderman@capitolcom.org)

## DEALING WITH SEXUAL TEMPTATION (Genesis 39:7-21)

*In our last study, Joseph had found favor as a slave in Egypt in Potiphar's house and had been given great responsibility. But his integrity would soon be tested.*

**Genesis 39:7-21** - And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison.

### USE YOUR VOICE

When Potiphar's wife tried to entice Joseph, he refused. He didn't ask for the temptation or even put himself in the position to be sexually tempted, but it still found him. And it will find us, many times when we least expect it. His heart was ready, though, and he vocally responded with a clear conviction to refuse her advances.

---

*We do not always choose our temptations, but we always choose our reactions.*

- David Platt -

---

*We must not count temptation a strange thing. "The disciple is not greater than his master, nor the servant than his lord." (Matthew 10:24) If Satan came to Christ, he will also come to Christians... To be tempted is in itself no sin. It is the yielding to the temptation, and giving it a place in our hearts, which we must fear.*

- J. C. Ryle -

### KNOW WHERE THE LINES ARE

Not only was Joseph outwardly setting boundaries, he also had set them in his mind. His answer to this woman was firm, but true – he knew his place in this house and that any man's wife was off limits to him.

Sexual expression outside of the marriage relationship is forbidden in Scripture. Our world scoffs at this idea, dismissing it as too old-fashioned and traditional, but over and over again, the wisdom of God's design for marriage is proven, especially when we observe the damage done when his design is rejected.

*1 Corinthians 6:13 – "...the body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord and the Lord for the body.*

*Proverbs 6:32 – But a man who commits adultery lacks judgement; whoever does so destroys himself.*

In his book, *Pleasures Forevermore*, Sam Storms wrote, "The focus of Satan's efforts is always the same: to deceive us into believing that the passing pleasures of sin are more satisfying than obedience."

## UNDERSTAND SIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

When one chooses to follow God and his ways, they don't become perfect and can't expect their new life to be without sin. Temptation is still present and the fleshly tendencies aren't completely removed. What this person does have, according to the Scriptures, is a Helper who empowers the believer to say no to sin.

Joseph was horrified by the thought of doing something outside God's sexual boundary, to the point he said, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" His personal desires didn't matter. The immediate pressure and prospect of gratification didn't matter. All he cared about was offending a holy God who loved him.

God created sex. He created it to be good as a part of his original design for humans, for enjoyment and procreation. When he set limits, he did it with the motivation of love, knowing that if his sexual morality is followed, people would enjoy intimacy in the highest form. God isn't trying to catch us or squelch our fun. He simply knows the best for us. Obeying him is wise and leads to our flourishing.

*1 Thessalonians 4:3, 4 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you **abstain from sexual immorality**; that each one of you know how to **control his own body** in holiness and honor.*

*Ephesians 5:3 - But **sexual immorality** and all impurity or covetousness **must not even be named among you**, as is proper among saints.*

## FLEE WHEN TRAPPED

This passage tells us that Mrs. Potiphar's sexual advance wasn't just a one-time thing. She was relentless and Joseph knew what was coming if he came across this woman without his employer around. This went on for some time until she finally trapped Joseph alone.

His response here is the model for dealing with sexual temptation. He ran. Literally. He just removed himself physically from the situation as she grabbed his clothes. He left his garment in her hand, because the priority at that point was to vanish as quickly as possible. As we learn lessons from the life of Joseph,

this might be the most important: when the temptation to sin presents itself, have the conviction that giving in offends our holy God and flee.

---

*You don't fix a struggling marriage with an affair, a drug problem with more drugs, debt with more debt. You don't fix stupid with stupid. You don't get out of a mess by making another one. Do what pleases God. You'll never go wrong doing what is right.*

- Max Lucado -

---

The New Testament strongly exhorts us to flee sin as well. In the following two texts Paul writes to Timothy, a young man who would face temptation, and the church in Corinth, which struggled mightily with sexual immorality in its ungodly culture.

*2 Timothy 2:22 - So **flee youthful passions** and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

*1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - **Flee from sexual immorality.** Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So **glorify God in your body.***

---

*What is "tempted?" Synonyms include enchanted, entranced, bewitched, hypnotized, spellbound, charmed, mesmerized, enraptured, and captivated. Each word generates an emotional picture. Temptation relates to sin. [We] are allured by it. We are attracted to it, enticed by it, seduced by its seeming pleasure, tantalized by the fantasy of what it would be like.*

- Jerry White -

## BIBLE STUDY

Legislators and Staff (During Session)  
Thursdays, 8:00 a.m.  
Room 153, House Office Building