



## purity of devotion

by Vic Black, National Prayer Director

Sexual purity certainly is a major part of purity. God expresses this clearly in many contexts, one being 1 Corinthians 6:19,20: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body." The earlier verses indicate that joining yourself with another person sexually is a profoundly spiritual experience. On the subject of purity, we tend to emphasize the phrase, "therefore glorify God in your body."

There's nothing wrong with this emphasis. However, in considering purity, I would choose to look at the rest of these two verses: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price."

This calls me to examine my *purity of devotion* to Him. My Father paid the ultimate and terrible price of the lifeblood of His Son to buy me back into relationship with Himself. That's how much He loves me. He has made me a citizen of heaven, an alien and stranger on this earth. And perhaps the most profound current reality is that He has chosen to live inside me! As I soak this in, it seems absurd that I would entertain thoughts of sexual impurity. But I do. Sadly, I do. We all do. Why? We experience a digres-

sion from purity of devotion to the One who loves us most.

David expresses this in Psalm 1:1-3: "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers."

Most of us are attracted to the part about being a *firmly* planted tree, yielding fruit, and prospering. But do we see the warning of the slow digression of pure devotion to God and His life-giving Word? I summarize it this way: "walk, stand, sit."

In order to walk in the counsel of the wicked, I must enter that neighborhood. Leaving the arena of my pure devotion to Christ; at first I just wander, watching and listening to the counsel of the wicked. My devotion to Christ wanes as He no longer has my undivided attention.

Further digression follows easily. I break stride. I stop. I stand in the path of sinners. Now that I've stopped to consider what these people have to offer, my ear becomes attuned to their barrage. I'm enticed. At this point, resuming my stride would be a challenge, because now it's the wicked who have my undivided attention. I'm listening to their counsel. I'm considering their advice for my life.

Then comes the ultimate surrender to this seedy neighborhood, this hangout where I don't even belong: I sit down. I join them. I fully embrace their language, their slang. I laugh as they scoff at things I once held dear. Fully in their company, I find myself joining smart-mouth slurs aimed at the original pure devotion of my heart.

How could I fall to such a pathetic low from my original purity of devotion? It didn't happen in one quick step, but with "walk, stand, sit."

The ways of the world are enticing, extremely alluring! But God Himself is enticing and extremely alluring, always calling us to deeper expressions of relationship with the Trinity. Which will we choose? Where is our undivided devotion?

*You are not your own.  
For you have been  
bought with a price.*



keninspenen, flickr.com

## the TLC keys to freedom

**Transformation** – Deep inner change is primarily about exposing unbiblical lies and strategies and having them transformed by the Holy Spirit. Inner healing and/or counseling can help the process. (Romans 12:2)

**Light** – Hiddenness only makes the problem worse. Your greatest need is to get your problem into the light so you can get help. God can begin to heal you. (1 John 1:6-10)

**Community** – Healing will be greatly enhanced if you are a part of a community of grace where you can open up without shame. Sexual Purity into the Light group would greatly help. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

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*The adult entertainment industry makes more money in any given year than professional football, basketball, baseball, and hockey combined, making it the number one form of entertainment in America.*

## porn: the greatest enemy of lifetime laboring

by Bob Reehm

Max and his wife moved to the area and settled in, and he gave me a call. I'd heard his name before: he'd been thoroughly trained and was a proven soul-winner. I was eager to lock arms with him. I longed to have another laborer side-by-side with me to reap the harvest God was giving. After five or six months, though, it was obvious he wasn't bearing fruit and wasn't going to. He was aloof and distant. He avoided me and never really opened up when we did get together. Finally I confronted him and asked what was up.



Bob Reehm

He hung his head and mumbled. He confessed to having a "secret life" of looking at Internet porn. In fact, Max was spending several hours a day accessing porn, looking, lust, and practicing sexual self-gratification. Calling phone sex lines, he'd racked up over \$5,000 of debt on credit cards he'd hidden from his wife.

I was shocked, but not surprised. I'd experienced similar things before...many times before.

Steve was older, a godly man, and I greatly looked forward to spending time with him. This had been one of the positive factors in considering a move. I'd been to conferences with him and had sat under his teaching; I respected him and longed for intimate fellowship and mentoring. But when I found him, he wouldn't give me eye contact. He was polite and cordial, but distant. I knew he'd recently left full-time ministry and started a successful business; I assumed he was bitter toward God or just burnt out from the ministry. I tried several times to restart a relationship, but it was obvious he didn't have time for me. Because he was older, I felt awkward about asking him "hard" questions, so I left him alone and gave up hope of relationship.

Fifteen years later, Steve called me. He wanted to tell me something. We got together, and he told me he'd been arrested for solicitation and public lewdness. He was now a registered sex offender. He was broken in spirit and desperately trying to walk with God again. Steve told me his story, his struggles and the step-by-step process that led to his arrest. Then he looked at me and said, "Why didn't you grab me, look me in the eye and demand what was going on with me? It might have brought me to my senses. I'm not blaming you for my sin. I was avoiding you because I knew you might confront me. I was so torn, trapped in sexual sin but at the same time wanting to be free. I've lived a lie. I've wasted fifteen years of my life."

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## call to purity

Dave Legg  
People Resources Team Director

*UpFront* addresses topics we hope will help. Because the area of sexual purity is such a big need, we've devoted a second issue to this subject. Simply flip on the



television or Internet, or walk through the mall, and we're assaulted by sexual images. Our flesh makes us easy targets. This sensual

attack comes in complete opposition to what God calls us to and is a distortion of His plan for the oneness and holiness of marriage. It's in direct conflict to our high calling of being set apart, both as His chosen people and as ministers of the gospel. We must reject the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and fight to live and minister in integrity.

The PRT is available to help. If you, your spouse, or a teammate is struggling, know that you don't have to struggle alone. There is help. Darkness and hiddenness incubate sin; bringing sin into the light is a first step toward recovery and freedom.

### UPCOMING PRT SEMINARS IN COLORADO SPRINGS

#### Personal Contribution Assessment

March 17-19, 2010  
May 12-14, 2010

#### Listening and Healing Prayer

May 7 & 8, 2010

#### Sabbatical Orientation Workshop

July 29-August 1, 2010

#### Becoming One Retreat

March 20-22, 2010  
July 17-19, 2010

#### Relational Healing

February 24-25, 2010  
March 26-27, 2010 (Los Angeles)

For more information call  
(719) 594-2555.

## porn: enemy

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Both of these men were laborers. Both fell prey to our culture of pornography and sexual sin. I've found that when a laborer stops laboring, when the zeal for the Lord dies out, when believers refuse to share their faith—the number one reason is secret sexual sin fueled by pornography.

The statistics are frightening. As a tsunami washes over an island, porn has washed over the entire world. Over seventy percent of men surveyed report that they've seen Internet porn within the last month. The adult entertainment industry makes more money in any given year than professional football, basketball, baseball, and hockey combined, making it the number one form of entertainment in America. By the time you've read this far, another pornographic film has been produced.

It's also the number one killer of Christian laborers, stripping them of their desire to bear fruit and luring them away from the quest to stay holy and useful to the Master. "If anyone purifies himself, he will be a vessel for noble use, sanctified and useful to the master of the house...."

We must wake up and recognize this real threat. Navigator staff had invested thousands of hours of training into each of the men mentioned above. They were trained, equipped, and called. But they're both casualties of war. One has repented and come back to God; the other is still on the downward spiral toward destruction, in the process of divorcing his wife and abandoning his children. Paul referred to himself as a "master builder" of disciples. As Navigators, we, too, are "master builders" of men and women, growing "oaks of righteousness." We must learn about and effectively confront this present and ever-growing porn menace. Like a cotton crop wiped out by boll weevils, or a wheat crop rendered fruitless by a plague of grasshoppers, our disciples are being destroyed by porn.

In John 17, Jesus said, "While I was with them, I guarded them, and not one is lost except the son of perdition...." Are you guarding your flocks?

*This article was written by Bob Reehm, NavStaff in Monterey, California, and author of The War Within...Gaining Victory in the Battle for Sexual Purity, Crossway Books Publisher, under the pen name Robert Daniels. The book won the 1998 Amazon.com Best Seller award in Christian counseling.*

## sexual purity resources

- ☉ Covenant Eyes ([www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)). Discount for Navigator staff.
- ☉ From PRT ([peopleresource@navigator.org](mailto:peopleresource@navigator.org)) or 719-594-2555)
  - Training in leading *Sexual Purity Into the Light* groups
  - A study you can use with others: *Sexual Purity Into the Light*
  - PRT Counseling and Staff Care Network
- ☉ From Bob Reehm ([breehm@comcast.net](mailto:breehm@comcast.net))
  - Purity verse pack
  - Book: *The War Within...Gaining Victory in the Battle for Sexual Purity*, published by Crossway Books, under the pen name Robert Daniels
- ☉ Jack & Marcia Deal ([JDeal131@hotmail.com](mailto:JDeal131@hotmail.com), [mtdeal716@hotmail.com](mailto:mtdeal716@hotmail.com))
  - Collegiate field Resources
- ☉ Michael & Julianne Cusick
  - [www.restoringthesoul.com](http://www.restoringthesoul.com)



## journey to freedom: one woman's story

by Julianne Cusick

July 10, 1993. My world came crashing down.

My husband, caught in a tangled web of lies, had just confessed to acting out sexually and being hooked on porn. "What? This godly man I married has been doing what?" My mind raced, my heart broke as I questioned, "Who is this man I'm married to? He's not the one I thought I knew." Everything I'd believed in felt like a lie. My dreams of a godly Christian marriage, children, life and a ministry together smashed against the cold, hard rocks of reality as each day over the following weeks my husband confessed to more lies. When I woke in the morning, a wave of nausea would wash over me as I realized this wasn't a bad dream. This was my life. I was angry. So *very* angry. "How could you do this to me? I trusted you." Our marriage was over.

Flash forward sixteen and a half years to 2010. My husband and I are happily married—to each other. We have two children and run a ministry called Restoring the Soul, helping people get free from sexual addiction and a whole lot more. We're a living testimony to what God's grace and healing power can do in a life and in a marriage. We are more in love and share more intimacy

than ever, both emotionally and sexually. So, how did we go from broken to restored? It wasn't easy.

First, as a woman of God, I learned that my husband has the power to devastate me but not destroy me. My life and my soul belong to Jesus Christ. It was only out of my relationship with Jesus that I stayed in my marriage and gave God time to work.

Second, my husband was repentant, and I mean deeply and completely broken and repentant. He cried over his sin, over breaking my heart and my trust. He gave me the gift of a broken spirit. "A broken and contrite spirit I will not despise." He committed to healing and freedom no matter what the cost.

Third, we were at the end of our selves and completely at the mercy of God. We asked God to build a new marriage; we asked the Holy Spirit to reveal what was hidden; we asked Jesus to heal our hearts. The Lord answered our cries. It wasn't easy, and it took several years. At one point we were in counseling two to three times a week.

We dug deep to the core issues driving Michael's sexual brokenness and my anger and co-dependency. We broke family curses, generational ties, and spiritual strongholds. We got emotionally and spiritually healthy.

Where do you find yourself today?

*As a woman of God, I learned that my husband has the power to devastate me but not destroy me. My life and my soul belong to Jesus Christ.*

Has sexual brokenness touched your life? Maybe you struggle with intimacy with your spouse. Maybe your husband struggles with porn. Maybe you've never told anyone about the man who touched you as a little girl. I'm here to tell you there is hope, healing, freedom, and new life available to you. Your first step is to tell someone. Get it out in the open. The enemy of our soul loves darkness, so expose every sin and every pain to the Light. "Whatever is revealed to the light becomes light." Get help. After confiding in a friend, seek the counsel of a godly counselor who can journey with you. Don't settle for trying harder or praying more. You've tried that. It doesn't work. You need to take a journey into the depths of your soul and let Jesus heal the deepest, most painful and shameful parts of you. He's waiting and willing, longing to heal you and restore you. "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."

Do you have that? Do you want that? Then tell Jesus. He can make a way in the wilderness and bring to fruition all the desires of your heart.

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