

A WHOLE NEW WARDROBE - 4

11/4/07

Introduction –

There were several news accounts this past week detailing sexual misconduct with minors. Perhaps the most shocking was that of the Troy Pediatrician. This follows Dayton Daily News reports from the previous week of several sexual misconduct cases involving public school teachers, which in turn followed a DDN news article revealing an alarming number of workers accessing on-line porn at work. Of course, the church hasn't escaped these torrid headlines and stories either.

However, what shocks me the most is that we continue to be shocked by this exposed behavior. A generation after throwing off most absolutes, moral convictions and restraints, our lives are daily bombarded and confronted with sexual shows, ads, jokes, and images. Is it little wonder then, when combined with the inherit weaknesses of our flesh, that we are reaping what we are.

This does not mean though, that we should condone such behavior, or throw our hands up in surrender. Rather, we must boldly proclaim God's Word, and cry out for mercy and help lest we too succumb to such sin.

Eph5:3 – “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, ... because these are improper for God's holy people.”

*I Cor 6:16,18 – “Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is **one with her** in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh”. ... “**Flee sexual immorality**. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.”*

*I Thess 4:3-5 – “It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should **avoid sexual immorality**; that each of you should learn to **control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable**, not in passionate lust like the heathen who do not know God.”*

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Before dealing with today's “garment”, do you know the difference between “**POSITION & PRACTICE**” and “**CONVICTION & CONDEMNATION**”? Can you articulate and explain it to someone? It's imperative that we understand this before dealing with these various garment changes.
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***TODAY'S GARMENT CHANGE: SEXUAL IMMORALITY > PURITY**

*Eph 4:22,24 – “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ... And to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

1. _____

*I Cor 10:12-13 – “So, if you think you are standing firm, **be careful that you don't fall!** No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out **so that you can stand up under it.**”*

- **You can fall**
- **You can stand**

***Discussion:**

1. What is meant by this point?
2. Why is this first point so very important?

2.

II Cor 10:5 – “...we take **captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ”

Phil 4:8 – “Finally brothers, whatever is true, ...noble, ...right, ...pure, ...lovely, ...admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – **think about such things.**”

Ps 19:14 – “May the words of my mouth and the **meditation of my heart** be pleasing in Your sight...”

- **Sowing & Reaping**
- **Thought > Act > Habit > Character > Destiny**

***Discussion:** Why is it so important that we get control of our thoughts?

3.

Mt 5:27-28 – “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who **looks** at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart”

Job 31:1 – “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.”

- **Men & Women differences**

***Discussion:**

1. How are men and women different with regard to this point?
2. How does it apply to each sex?

4.

Prov 7:21-22(NAS) – “With **flattering lips** she seduces him. Suddenly he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter...”

- **Defined: Excessive & insincere praise, Given to further one’s own interest, Snow job**
- **One Defense: Compliment you mate**

***Discussion:**

1. Why do you think both men and women are so susceptible to this?
2. Why is it so important that we compliment our mate?

5.

I Cor 6:18a – “**Flee from sexual immorality**”

- **Conquer by fleeing**

***Discussion:**

1. How do many try to fight sexual temptation?
2. How do we conquer by fleeing? What example did Pastor Rich share?

6.

Prov 27:17 – “As iron sharpens iron, **so one man sharpens another**”

Gal 6:1 – “Brothers, **if someone is caught in a sin**, you who are spiritual should **restore him gently**. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.”

- **Only works if totally honest, and if freedom is one’s goal**

***Discussion:**

1. Why do you think this point has brought so much success to so many?
2. Explain what is meant by the bullet?

7.

Prov 5:18-20a – “...may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer – may her breast satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress?”

- **Honeymoon WILL end!**
- **Must work at it for it to be a good marriage**
 - a. Compliment
 - b. Do things together
 - c. Amorous Trifling
 - d. Say: “I love you” often
 - e. Touch, hold, kiss
 - f. Don’t withhold sex

***Discussion:**

1. Why does the honeymoon end?
2. Why do you have to work at it to have a good marriage? Discuss the points under that bullet. Can you add any others?