

Resisting Moral Attack
by Bill Scheidler

- I. Today men are facing a moral attack such as the world has not seen since the rise of Christianity.
 - A. Through the fashion and dress industry.
 - B. Through the movie and entertainment industry.
 - C. Through the perpetuation of the philosophies of Darwinism and secular humanism which teach that:
 - 1. Man is an just a higher form of animal life.
 - 2. Man is amoral.
 - 3. Man is not accountable to a higher law.
 - D. Through the proliferation of pornography and sex education.
 - E. Through the open acceptance of homosexuality and other non-biblical relationships as alternative lifestyles.
 - F. Through the development of the Internet where all manner of perversion can be brought into the privacy of one's home.

- II. Peter's words on the Day of Pentecost were never more significant than they are today, "Save yourself from this untoward generation" (Acts 2:40).

Other translations:

 - A. "Be saved from this perverse generation." (Rhm)
 - B. "Escape from this perverse generation." (Weymouth)

- III. It takes a strong man to resist this onslaught and overcome. A weak man will be swept away.
 - A. We must see the need to resist.
 - B. We must have a plan of attack.
 - C. We must not fight alone.
 - D. We must give the enemy no place to gain a foothold.

IV. Moral sin has a progression that must be recognized and acknowledged.

James 1:14-15 - *“But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death.”*

A. STEP ONE: It begins in the mind. Entertaining a thought.

1. James 1:14 - *“But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.”*
2. Matthew 15:19 - *“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.”*

B. STEP TWO: It is first expressed through the eyes. The eyes follow the heart; they are the windows of the soul (See: 2 Peter 2:14 - “eyes full of adulteries”).

1. Matthew 5:27-29 - *“You have heard it 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. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”*
 - a) “Looks at” here means a continual looking. This is not just a glance. There are many avenues of looking:
 - (1) Girl-watching (behind sunglasses)
 - (2) Magazines (swimsuit issues)
 - (3) TV, cable, advertisements, pageants, Internet
 - (4) Magazine racks
 - b) These are easy to justify because they are passive areas of involvement, that is, they come at us with no initiation or overt action on our part.
 - c) If this is a problem, however, you are to take drastic measures. If you do not deal with this issue severely, it will lead to worse things.

C. STEP THREE: It leads to a feeding of the sensual appetite. If you do not deal with the passive areas of the eyes, you will begin creating situations to feed your mind and eyes upon.

1. The Bible refers to this appetite as the “lust of the flesh” (1 John 2:16). A lust is a craving that must be fed.
2. There are many things we can use to feed the craving. These are not passive, but involve active attempts on our part to feed this desire.
 - a) Pornographic material (especially the Internet)
 - b) Videos/movies
 - c) Fantasizing
 - d) Improper reading material
 - e) Night spots/nude or semi-nude dancers
 - f) Filthy talk/jesting
3. The more you feed something, the stronger it becomes. It soon has the power to dominate you (See: Romans 6:11-17).

D. STEP FOUR: It leads to the temptation of sexual experimentation (a single act). If you have already yielded to or given up the battle in the previous areas, this next step will come easily.

1. Galatians 6:1 speaks of someone who is “caught in a sin” or “overtaken in a fault.”
 - a) This is an act of weakness.
 - b) It speaks of a slip.
 - c) It speaks of being taken by surprise.
2. We can be surprised because we have in reality set ourselves up.
 - a) We have lowered our resistance.
 - b) We are open to the seductress (Proverbs 4-5).
 - c) The truth is, it happened suddenly, but it was building up for a long time. No one sins suddenly. We have positioned ourselves to fall and Satan and the situations of life have accommodated us by putting the right situation in front of us.
3. Some of the sins of experimentation may include:
 - a) Falling with members of our own household, those under our authority
 - (1) Sexual exploitation of wife (Hebrews 13:4), wanting her to do things we have seen on film.
 - (2) Sexual exploitation of children (Matthew 18:6), which often begins with inappropriate touching.

This is a despicable sin that deserves serious treatment.

- b) Falling with someone we do not know
 - (1) Prostitutes
 - (2) Massage parlors, etc.
- c) Falling with someone we know
 - (1) A relative (sister-in-law, niece)
 - (2) Co-worker
 - (3) A friend's spouse
 - (4) A spouse's friend

E. STEP FIVE: It leads to a lifestyle of adultery. One can become an immoral person or an adulterer (1 Corinthians 6:9).

- 1. The person now plans to fall and begins to seduce others for his own self-gratification. They never stop sinning (2 Peter 2:14).
- 2. This person has become reprobate, perverse and degenerate.
- 3. God is going to actively resist this person (Hebrews 13:4).

V. Moral sin has some serious consequences that must be understood. These are the wages of sin (Proverbs 5:4; 7:22-23; 6:25-35).

“No amount of prayer or pious living is going to undo the damage caused by undisciplined actions of infidelity.” Example: David

- A. He destroys his own soul (Proverbs 6:32).
- B. He will experience a shame that will never go away (Proverbs 6:33).
- C. He will be scarred for life (Proverbs 6:33).
- D. He destroys the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).
- E. He hurts those he loves (Proverbs 2:17).
- F. He will experience bitter gall (Proverbs 5:4).
- G. He will grieve his friends and ruin his friendships (2 Corinthians 12:21).
- H. At the end of his life he will groan (Proverbs 5:11).
- I. He will be poisoned (Proverbs 23:32).

- J. He will experience death (Proverbs 14:12). Willful sin leads to death. Moral sin can be conquered by the believer.
- K. We must take the battle seriously.
1. Peter 2:11 - "*Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.*"
 2. Lenski says, "Which campaign against the soul."
 3. Satan actually is campaigning against your soul with moral attacks. No one is immune to his attack.
- L. We must repent of any areas in which we have stumbled (Psalm 51:1-13).
- M. We must be willing to remove snares that cause temptation.
1. We must take drastic measures.
 2. We must sever relationships that drag us down.
- N. We must deal with our thought life (Philippians 4:18).
1. This means guarding our minds and rejecting evil thoughts.
 2. This means putting on the mind of Christ.
- O. We must make a covenant with our eyes (Job 31:1).
1. This means putting on spiritual blinders.
 2. This means changing the TV channels, if necessary.
- P. We must be willing to solicit the help of others.
1. Your wife
 2. A friend
 3. A care leader
 4. A pastor
- Q. We must work hard to cultivate a healthy marriage.

1. Quit talking of divorce.
 2. Cultivate first love.
- R. We must flee all impurity in the future, never over-estimating our strength (2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Corinthians 10:12).
- S. We must keep busy doing the work of the Lord, serving others and extending the Kingdom of God. Idleness is an enemy (Philippians 3:13-14; Hebrews 12:1-2).
- VI. The price for moral sin is too high.
- A. It causes us to lose our birthright (Hebrews 12:16-17).
1. Esau and the mess of pottage
 2. Reuben (1 Chronicles 5:1)
- B. It causes us to become a castaway.
- C. It diminishes the effectiveness of the church. Holiness and purity are important to God.
1. Psalm 24:3-5

“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”
 2. Ephesians 5:25-27

“Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”