

# A MAN CONQUERED AND RUINED BY LUST

## PURITY LESSONS FOR CHRISTIAN MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE LIFE OF AMNON

### PART TWO

#### 3) ASSOCIATION

- ❖ **2 Samuel 13:3-6**, But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man. And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." **Jonadab said to him**, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'" So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

**Illustration:** I know a Christian husband who was developing a relationship with a woman which was leading towards an adulterous relationship. When his friend found out, he gave him a firm warning and correction. O, his marriage was saved! How good to have such friends!

**Caution:** "Bad company corrupts good character" (**1 Corinthians 15:33**). "**Bad company worsens bad character.**"

#### 1. PEER PRESSURE (JONADAB'S):

- ⇒ I was speaking to a person who was caught up in pornography. Told him, "Take someone with you." He replied, "It is friends who led him into porn."
- ⇒ One 16-year old girl told the magazine, "I'm a virgin. Isn't it pathetic? I don't think any of my friends are. They don't criticize me, but it's like a barrier between them and me. Like they know something I don't. It makes me feel left out. I'm definitely going to do it before my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. I don't know with

who. I'm looking forward to being able to tell my friends, 'Guess what? Look what I did.'" (Mentioned in *R...*)

⇒ **Siddharth Dutt, M Manjula Department of Clinical Psychology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, Karnataka, India:** A large percentage of the youth in the study get the knowledge from friends. This could be because discussing sexual matters openly is a taboo and parents or family members are often hesitant in initiating or discussing about it, youth choose to discuss with friends.

## **2. MASS MEDIA PRESSURE (movies, literature, television shows, advertisements, internet, social media, music lyrics) – (JONADAB'S):**

- ⇒ Homosexuality is okay and normal
- ⇒ Oral sex is okay and normal
- ⇒ Premarital sex is okay and normal
- ⇒ Live-in relationship is okay and normal
- ⇒ Extramarital sex is okay and normal
- ⇒ Pornography is okay and normal

**Ram Gopal Varma:** "Man has made massive advances in terms of art, technology, social progress and so on but he couldn't invent a single thing which gives more happiness and more pleasure than sex. The suppression of sexual pleasure is one of the key ingredients to suppress the freedom of an individual. I believe that sex is just a pleasurable act and to attach it to morality will be counterproductive." THE CURRENT MEDIA IS PRODUCED AND RULED BY SUCH MORALLY CORRUPT PEOPLE!

**Observe:** The modern mass media has maneuvered sexual immorality by forcing us to accept it as a normal lifestyle in the name of individual freedom and binding us with a compelling sentiment – "Don't Judge."

**A journal published Dovepress:** Many studies have shown that mass media negatively influences young people in their sexual behaviors.

**Marissa Wagner Oehlhof, a professor in the University's psychology department:** "We live in a sex-saturated society. The media constantly throws sex

in our faces — there’s music about hooking up (sexual relationship with someone), sex scenes in movies and **the more people watch and listen to this media, the more normal it becomes.**”

**RATHER HAVE GODLY FELLOWSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY: FLEE FROM** the impact of corrupt people and of mass media which desensitizes your spiritual faculties. **FLEE TO** godly fellowship and accountability, and expose yourself to godly media.

- ❖ **Psalm 119:37**, “**Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things**; and give me life in your ways.” **DON’T LET THE CURRENT MEDIA POISON YOUR HEART!**
- ❖ **2 Timothy 2:22**, “Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, **ALONG** with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”
- ❖ **Hebrews 3:13**, “But **exhort one another every day**, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

**Personal Testimony:** Godly friends are a great blessing and encouragement to me in living a holy life. Without the Lord’s protection of my life through them, I cannot make it to the end.

**Greg Morse Staff writer, desiringGod.org:** Ungodly friends cheer us on toward destruction. Your soul needs friends who are willing to risk wounding your pride in the moment for the long-term good of your soul. Praise God then for the faithful wounds of true friends who protect us from ultimate injury. They tell us plainly, “You’re flirting with destruction!” Or, “Spiritual sloth is unacceptable!” Friends who ask us hard questions, who crush the whispering lizard on our shoulder, who are for our eternal soul above our momentary feelings — these are true friends. Find these friends. Thank these friends. Imitate these friends. They are, as a friend of mine calls it, God’s “community grace” to you. We need a crew of Christian companions — a body — to keep us from shipwreck. **Finishing the race is not an individual endeavor, and eternity is at stake.**

#### 4) **DECEPTION/MANIPULATION**

**2 Samuel 13:5-6**, Jonadab said to him, “Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, ‘Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it

from her hand.” So Amnon lay down and **pretended to be ill**. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, “Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand.”

**Know:** Amnon deceived both the king and his daughter, Tamar, to gratify his lust.

**People who are entangled by lust live a life of deception.  
Lies, deceit, hypocrisy become their nature.**

**Deception:** Cleverly making advances to gratify lust

**Philosophy of Sexuality:** Certain types of manipulation and deception are so common as to appear part of the nature of the sexual experience.

- ⇒ A man pretends before his wife that he is doing his office work on the computer when in fact he actually watches pornography. DECEPTION! FLEE!
- ⇒ A young boy pretends to do his school assignment and research work but he secretly watches pornography. DECEPTION! FLEE!
- ⇒ A person deceives himself that it is okay to watch kissing and cuddling and finally ends up watching hardcore porn. DECEPTION! FLEE FROM ALL FORMS OF EVIL!
- ⇒ A girl pretends to be ill so that she can avoid going with her parents to a party and invites her boyfriend to her house. DECEPTION!
- ⇒ A young man takes his girlfriend to a movie theatre and makes her sit somewhere in the corner so that he can tempt her sensually while watching the movie. DECEPTION! FLEE!
- ⇒ A man and a woman subtly convince each other to sleep together because they are anyway going to marry soon. DECEPTION! EVEN IF YOU DECIDE TO MARRY, SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE IS AGAINST GOD’S WORD.
- ⇒ A Christian man finds a Christian woman physically attractive and keeps talking to her and chatting with her in the name of encouraging her in the Lord. DECEPTION! BEWARE OF SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME ENCOURAGING THE OPPOSITE SEX.
- ⇒ A young man manipulates a girl saying, “If you really love me you will kiss me and give yourself to me”. DECEPTION! MANIPULATION!

- ⇒ A married man and a married woman in an office share with each other the problems with their spouses and deceptively find comfort in each other. DECEPTION! BEWARE OF SHARING YOUR FAMILY CONFLICTS WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX AT YOUR OFFICE AND NEIGHBORHOOD.
- ⇒ A neighbor visits a woman's house in pretension of a casual talk after her husband leaves to office. DECEPTION! DON'T LET AN OPPOSITE SEX ENTER YOUR HOME IN THE ABSENCE OF YOUR SPOUSE, EVEN THAT PERSON BE A PASTOR.
- ⇒ A young woman shared how her friend manipulated her that it is normal to have same-sex relationship and not to feel guilty about the act. DECEPTION! FLEE!
- ⇒ In the name of honesty and transparent confession, a married man shares with another woman about his attraction towards her and even asks her to pray for him. DECEPTION! NEVER SHARE YOUR LUSTFUL STRUGGLES WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX.
  - A married woman in a church shared with my friend how she felt attractive toward him. He was shocked and had a great struggle to refuse the temptation.
- ⇒ A man cleverly seduces a woman who is unloved and uncared by her husband by showing her great love and care. DECEPTION! UNLOVED AND UNCARED WOMEN PROVIDE GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR MEN TO PREY UPON THEM.
- ⇒ A married youth pastor from a charismatic church in Hyderabad took a Christian woman I know to a restaurant, and then took a ring from his pocket and said, "I have got a dream and God told me to marry you." Later he threatened her, "If you talk against me, you will be cursed because I am a prophet of God." DECEPTION! DON'T BELIEVE ANYONE WHO SAYS "GOD SPOKE TO ME" WHICH IS AGAINST GOD'S WRITTEN WORD.

**Brad Hambrick:** Lust and lying go together, almost as if they are two sides of the same coin. If lust is ever to be broken, then the inevitable companion sin of lying must also be admitted and overcome.

**Caution:** If you find anyone in the church deceptively (EVIDENTLY) making sensual advances towards you, inform the elders. If it is from an elder, inform the other

elders. At the same time, don't be overcautious and too suspicious but let's love one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

## **5) ISOLATION (THE CONDITION OF BEING ALONE, EITHER WITH A PERSON TOWARDS WHOM YOU ARE PHYSICALLY ATTRACTED OR WITH AN ELECTRONIC GADGET)**

**2 Samuel 13:7-11**, Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him." So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. And she took dough and kneaded it and made cakes in his sight and baked the cakes. And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, "**Send out everyone from me.**" **So everyone went out from him.** Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

**Mistake of Amnon:** Sent everyone away to be alone with Tamar.

**Mistake of Tamar:** She let others leave and let herself to be alone with Amnon.

**Note:** Lust becomes stronger and almost irresistible when you are alone. When you are lustful, to live in isolation is to unleash all the power of lust to rule over you.

### **Ask Questions:**

- ⇒ Ask those who are addicted to porn at what situation they watch porn, they would say when they are alone.
- ⇒ Ask those who fell in premarital sex at what situation they fell in this sin, they would say when they were alone together.
- ⇒ Ask those who committed adultery (extramarital affair) at what situation they committed adultery, they would say when they were alone together.
- ⇒ Ask those who were sexually abused at what situation they were abused, they would say when they were alone with the sexual abuser.
- ⇒ Ask those who entertain strong sexual fantasies at what situation they entertain such thoughts, they would say when they were alone.

## **BEING ALONE WITH SOMEONE OR SOMETHING IS DANGEROUS IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF LUST!**

- ⇒ Do not be with your phone or tab alone when you are battling against sexual temptation.
- ⇒ Do not watch television alone when you are struggling with sexual temptation.
  - I read about Christian men when they check into a hotel, they will ask the hotel manager to remove the TV from their room.
- ⇒ Do not be with your computer alone when you are wrestling with sexual temptation.
- ⇒ If you are addicted to porn, don't be alone. If you are not staying with your family, get a roommate. Don't be in the room if your roommate isn't there. If you are staying with your family, see how your family members can help you not to stay alone.

**Heath Lambert, Associate Professor of Biblical Counseling and author of "Finally Free":** A person who desires pornography can only view it **when it's available and when they have time alone to view it.** Imagine you have a desire to see pornography and are in a room surrounded by porn. If one of your pastors or an accountability partner happens to be in the room with you, you would probably be able to resist looking — despite your desire and the availability of the porn. Now, take those people away and you're instantly tempted again. **WHY? BECAUSE NOW YOU'RE ALONE.** This means you must limit the time you spend alone — especially in the early phases of the struggle against pornography. Be honest with your accountability partner about the typical times when you are alone and find yourself tempted. Make plans to spend those times with others. You can study together, take a walk, play sports, read the Bible and pray, or watch a movie. You can even have an accountability partner scheduled to call you during those times (with the requirement that you must pick up the phone) to check in on you. If you're married, you may need to commit to going to bed at the same time as your spouse, even if you don't feel tired. Cut back as much as possible on the times when you are alone and tempted to indulge in pornography.

- ⇒ If you are staying in an apartment or in a room, do not meet a boy or your boyfriend or a girl or your girlfriend alone in your room.

- ⇒ Do not counsel/encourage the opposite sex in a private setting where no one can watch over you.
- ⇒ Do not visit the house of an opposite sex if his/her spouse or parents or other family members are not at home.
- ⇒ Avoid going alone with the opposite sex to a restaurant or somewhere. Have someone with you.
  - A Christian woman shared with me about how a man in the church wanted to meet her privately to speak about a very important issue and when she met him, he made sexual advances towards her. FLEE!
- ⇒ Do not travel alone with the opposite sex.

**Note:** The ancient Rabbis strongly advised men against allowing themselves to be alone with a woman other than a mother, sister, wife, or daughter.

**Billy Graham Rule:** Billy Graham had a “rule” for his interactions with women. He would never be alone with a woman who was not his wife—not in a car, an elevator, or a meal. He believed this was the best way to guard himself from sexual immorality.

- ⇒ Don’t let your teens/youth be alone in their room with their doors closed or locked, especially with their electronic gadgets.
- ⇒ Do not let your kid be alone in their room with their friend of the opposite sex.
- ⇒ Do not let your kid be alone with an adult in a room (group is okay) where no one can watch. (caution about sexual abuse)
- ⇒ Beware of online private chatting with the opposite sex, especially in the night. If necessary to chat, be accountable to someone and show your texting to them.
- ⇒ Do not speak alone on phone with the opposite sex for a long time. Have someone around you.

**Mark Merrill (president of the national non-profit organization, Family First):**

The last thing you want to do is find yourself alone with the object of your unhealthy desires, whether it is images or actual people. If contact with that person is a must, then make sure it is always in a public space and others are around.



**Caution:** If you observe someone in the church who has become a victim of immodest dressing, ungodly association with friends or media, deception by someone, isolation with someone—don't be judgmental and critical but be gracious in your help towards them.

**Summary:** Association, Deception, and Isolation.