

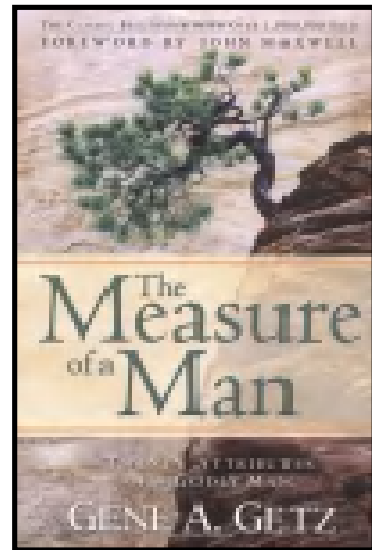
The Measure of a Man, “Moral Purity” By Gene Getz

This is a great topic for men, “Moral Purity”. The topic could be very broad – covering the basic idea of morality and its many applications to lifestyle – but Gene has chosen to concentrate on strictly sexual morals.

The New Testament teaching clearly describes a spiritual leader as having only one wife; and excludes men who have been divorced or who are engaged in extramarital affairs or relations. These rules and requirements may seem rather archaic or antiquated by contemporary standards but, as with much instruction of the Epistles, should be valued on the basis of truth and the intention of protecting – rather than discriminating – members (and leaders) the *body of Christ*.

When we realize the importance of the heart, the concept of moral purity (sexual purity) is not restricted to marriage or other relations – but also includes our minds – or what we think about.

If we think or dwell on illicit sexual activity in the matter of another person, than the possibility exist of an impure heart or sexual impurity. This aspect may seem daunting – in that our minds can quickly register thoughts with or without some stimulus. Young men are more vulnerable or apt in this aspect simply because of their hormone levels; thus, the aspect becomes more than daunting – but seemingly impossible to overcome...



It is a struggle; that is, the sins of the flesh – to include sexual feelings and fantasies – can be troubling and tough...thus leading to the realization that our thought life is not something that we can master, but instead, is just another area of the heart that must be committed to Christ. If you find that what you want to do, you do not always end-up doing; or as you try, you still fail; **remember, that God has a true understanding of your heart and, as Lord, is able...**

In the chemistry of man are natural desires – for which he may not fully understand (as a young man) – or should expect his wife to understand as a married man. Even in these desires – and with an understanding of why the desires exist – **comes the understanding that desires do not warrant illicit behavior or, said better, sinning.** You may have many impulses – or even inset desires from anger – that cannot be justified by some attempt at satisfaction or fulfillment.

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I heard a very wise man say one time that sexual lust occurs – not with a alone – **but when the prolonged feeling would lead to the action...if given the opportunity.** If this concept is accurate, then the relief or understanding comes in knowing that thoughts alone are not sinful, but rather, the extension of a thought into the willful want and pursuit of such things. At the same time, know that a thought is often the beginning of such possibilities; thus should the desire for different thoughts as a matter of caution and wisdom.

The scriptures teach of the transformation of the mind to that like Christ; consequently, the believer see or recognize changing desires of his heart – from pleasing the flesh to pleasing the Spirit. Still, the temptation may rise and fall during the course of man’s full existence (in the flesh) – giving full reason for his need to continue to take caution while trusting God for strength, even victory, in these areas...and struggles.

With the advent of the Web has come the proliferation of porn as an industry and addiction. I have read about the rise in this addiction with the largest single demographic being young teen men. Knowing that my own children are in this age group – and without any direct involvement in their lives – I am troubled by the apparent accessibility and possible addiction with all the adverse consequences. Prayer is a must for them...in this matter...because it matters so much.

Fitting the full description of an addiction, porn is destructive on so many levels. It degrades women and reduces men to the lowest level of carnality; it supplants in the minds of young some expectation or concept that is never realistic but, at the same time, is packaged to please. With reported profits that exceed the average Web-based business – along with volume and retention indicative of this performance – porn is both insidious and ubiquitous...

More on scale of a plague, porn is best kept as far from the mind as possible; and whatever it takes to *get you there*, just do it! Don’t think for a minute that you can be a casual observer or that you have it under control; for then you are falling into folly – to the land of insatiable want and uncontrollable desire. Like a drug, you cannot get enough and – should you every come to your senses – the habit will be hard to break. **But remember that nothing is impossible with God and, above all, forgiveness is offered to those who believe in Christ as Lord and who truly seek repentance...and restoration.**

Help and healing is only a prayer and decision away...