

A MAN CONQUERED AND RUINED BY LUST

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

PART ONE

INTRODUCTION:

Sex has become the number one pursuit and pleasure in the world today. We live in a sex-saturated society. There is nothing wrong with sex; it is the most exhilarating physical pleasure God has gifted to man and woman. However, pursuing sexual satisfaction BEFORE and BEYOND marriage, whether in thought or in act, is a sin against the holy God, bringing destruction to one's own soul and disgrace to the community. **Á**

⇒ The Bible honestly records the moral failures of people.

⇒ When it comes to sexual temptation, many of us are well aware about Joseph, Samson, David but not about Amnon.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 13:1-22

Grand Purpose: The history of the rise of David's dynasty, which ultimately points to the Lord Jesus who has become the eternal heir of David's throne. Keeping this purpose in mind, we will learn some lessons from the life of Amnon about how we can flee from being conquered and ruined by lust.

Who was Amnon?

❖ **2 Samuel 3:2-3**, And sons were born to David at Hebron: **his firstborn was Amnon**, of Ahinoam of Jezreel; and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; and **the third, Absalom the son of Maacah** the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur...(cf. 1 Chro. 3:1)

Absalom and Tamar had the same mother and father. Tamar was Amnon's half sister. David was their father, but they had different mothers.

Why Study this man, Amnon? This man is an example of being overcome by lust. Amnon stands as a man who destroyed his life for the sake of momentary pleasure. A wise person learns from the mistakes of a fool.

Charles Swindoll defines “Lust” as “a desire to have and enjoy the body of an individual, even though such pleasure is illegal and/or immoral.”

1) **FASCINATION (Physical Attraction and Imagination)**

- ❖ **2 Samuel 13:1**, Now Absalom, David's son, **had a beautiful sister**, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, **loved her**.

‘Loved’ in Hebrew is 'ahab' (āhav’): One of its descriptions is “a strong feeling of liking sexually.” SENSUAL FASCINATION.

Note: In lust, we love the physical body. In true love, we love a person as a whole.

How did Amnon look at the beauty of Tamar? Amnon looked at the beauty of Tamar in the same way Potiphar’s wife looked at Joseph and David looked at Bathsheba.

- ❖ **WOMAN: Genesis 39:6-7**, “Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master's wife **cast her EYES (looked lustfully)** on Joseph and said, “Lie with me.”
- ❖ **MAN: 2 Samuel 11:2**, “It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that **he SAW from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.**”... **v.4**, “So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her.” (cf. Pro. 6:25)

How do we look at the beauty of a person? [real person or digital images or videos]

- ❖ **Job 31:1 (NIV)**, “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl”.
- ❖ **31:7**, “My heart has not been led by my eyes.” (**lust is a sensual transaction between eyes and heart**)

Some pray and desire to come out but don’t make a strong decision, determination and covenant.

❖ **Jesus said in Matt. 5:27-28**, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who **looks at a woman with lustful intent** (WATCHING AND THINKING) has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

- **What your eye captures is what your mind imagines and what your mind imagines is where your feet will run into. If we fail to resist what we watch and imagine, we fail to abstain our feet from sin.**

John Stott, “The secret of holy living is in the mind.”

Randy Alcorn: A Christian man once told me, “I fell into this adulterous relationship without warning. It came out of the clear blue sky.” As I asked him questions, it became evident that he had actually cultivated a mind for immorality. His choices to feed his mind on immoral images made him an adulterer just waiting for an adulteress to come along.

Note: If we don’t resist sexual attraction and thoughts at the very first sight, we will soon be captivated and battered by lust. THIS IS WHERE AMNON FAILED!

Have you seen the movie “King Kong”?

- King Kong (25 feet tall gorilla), when he died, Jack Black as Carl Denham said, “It wasn't the airplanes. It was BEAUTY that killed the BEAST.” O, HOW MANY HAVE RUINED THEIR LIVES BY LUSTING BEAUTY!

John Piper: We must not give a sexual image or impulse more than five seconds before we mount a violent counterattack with the mind. I mean that! Five seconds. In the first two seconds we shout, "NO! Get out of my head!" In the next two seconds we cry out: "O God, in the name of Jesus, help me. Save me now. I am yours." Good beginning. But then the real battle begins. This is a mind war. The absolute necessity is to get the image and the impulse out of our mind. How? Get a counter-image into the mind. Fight. Push. Strike. Don't ease up. It must be an image that is so powerful that the other image cannot survive. There are lust-destroying images and thoughts.

Proverbs 31:30, Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting...WHY?

- Physical beauty does not necessarily reflect the beauty of heart
- Physical beauty fades away

FOOTNOTE: A CAUTION TO GIRLS—Girls dress modestly. **1 Timothy 2:9**, “I also want women to dress modestly...”

A good question to ask: How does my dress help the men around me not to become lustful?

- ❖ **Luke 17:1-2**, And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.”

Note: We should not only abstain from falling into temptation but also keep away from tempting others.

Kim Alexis (born in 1960) was a super-model in the eighties. She's had a change of heart about many things, and today she realizes that she made a lot of mistakes. Now she's challenging women to think about the message they are sending when they dress sensually: "Many women are playing with fire in the way they dress. Dressing like a floozy (wear clothes that attract sexual attention) tells the world, 'Look at me, want me, lust after me. I'm easy and you can have me.' **Displaying intimate parts of the body," she says, "is a form of advertising for sex." Á**

In the “The Sin of Bathsheba” the unknown author says: There is nothing at all wrong or evil about your physical beauty. It is the creation of God, and is, like all that God created, "very good". It was designed by God for a specific purpose: the woman was made "for the man". (1Cor.11:9) The perfectly obvious design of your beauty is to ravish and satisfy the heart of a man —but a man —not every man. If God has joined you to that one man, then by all means, give that beauty to him... Thus used, the beauty of your body will glorify the God who gave it to you, and serve the man for whom it was given. But if you put it on display, and prostitute it to the gaze of the whole world, you only glorify yourself and serve the devil.

Sisters, to help you understand how sinful and wicked men are, in

Wd@ c ĉl dŷcã~d, it is revealed that the two most parts that sensually attracts men are women’s breasts and buttocks (gluteus maximus). Female butts (gluteus maximus) may actually be more enticing to males than breasts.

In the journal **Archives of Sexual Behavior**, examining the results of 184 males, the authors found that 59 percent of them revealed greater attraction to female buttocks (gluteus maximus), whereas only 38.5 percent showed more of a preference for their breasts.

Popular culture expert Ray B. Browne observed that a woman's buttocks (gluteus maximus) as a sexual signal for men was receiving increased emphasis, which he attributed primarily to the huge popularity of tight-fitting jeans.

Application: If you wear tight-fitting pants or jeans outside, or if you wear casual pants or track pants at home, it is good to wear T-shirt or a garment which is long till your lap, covering one's butts (gluteus maximus). It is good to avoid wearing till waist.

Quote: Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, not a showroom to display your beauty.

2) **FRUSTRATION**—THIS IS THE RESULT OF UNCONTROLLED FASCINATION

- ❖ **2 Samuel 13:2**, And Amnon was **so tormented (BY LUST)** that **he made himself ill (BY HIS OWN CHOICE)** because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her.
- ❖ **2 Samuel 13:4**, And he (Jonadab) said to him (Amnon), “O son of the king, why are you so **haggard (depressed, NASB)** morning after morning?...”

Process of LUST: Sight – Thought – Imagination (entertain) – Frustration to get.

⇒ **L** – Living, **U** – Under, **S** – Sexual, **T** – Tension

Frustration:

- ⇒ To sexually fantasize
- ⇒ To watch pornography
- ⇒ To masturbate
- ⇒ To see the person or to talk with lustful intent
- ⇒ To have sex

Frustration by lust also leads to distortion of FOCUS!

- ⇒ Loss of focus on studies or work
- ⇒ Loss of focus on family welfare

- ⇒ Loss of interest in prayer and studying the Bible
- ⇒ Loss of joy in church activities
- ⇒ Can't maintain pure/healthy relationship with the opposite sex
- ⇒ Loss of good sleep

Deception: Gratify lust and you will feel relieved.

Remember: When you resist yielding to lust, your frustration will be for a while but later you will enjoy steadfast peace in the Lord. But when you yield to lust, you receive relief for a while but later you will suffer from continuous frustration.

One Christian brother wrote: When I feed lust or sexual fantasies in my mind, what I reap is only frustration. I get so frustrated that I feel the pressure of gratifying lust again and again. There is no end to this struggle. My frustration reaches to such a peak that I cannot look at the opposite sex with absolute purity. When I talk to the opposite sex, although my speech seems nice and decent, my mind is entangled by lustful thoughts. O, what a fool I am to gratify lust because what I reaped was not satisfaction but frustration!

Ravi Zacharias: Oscar Wilde said, 'The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it.' He got it wrong. The unrestrained appeasement of desire only expands hungers. Does not our experience tell us so?

Comment: YOU CAN NEVER SATISFY LUST. THE MORE YOU TRY TO SATISFY THE MORE IT BECOMES STRONGER AND LEADS YOU TO FRUSTRATION. STARVE LUST BY NOT GRATIFYING IT.