

*New Life Ministries and
Every Man's Battle present*

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to be different

WeDared Sermon
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Thank you for being with me here and for taking time to listen to a message about sexual integrity and sexual purity in men.

You know, I have a wonderful little boy named Solomon, and when he was born, my wife and I went down to the *Babies R Us*, or I call it, Profits R Up, and we bought a chest. We had to help the guy from the warehouse to put it in to the truck. There was a guy there who came out and I mean, I don't know what his name was, but he was just a giant, I think his name was Thor or something like that. So I helped him put it in the truck, and we lifted it up, and the guy just slammed it right down on my finger. I have to tell you, the first thing he said was, "*are you ok?*" and I said, "*sure, absolutely*", but I was saying some things inside that maybe you wouldn't find in the old or new testament, but I was really, really hurting. And as soon as he went around to the side and got out of sight and went into the store, I was crying because I was hurting so bad. I lost the nail on my hand and my wife came over and I made the mistake of (she was pregnant of course) mentioning something like "*it was a pain worse than child birth*", that was stupid. But when it was all done, I thought, "*Isn't that just like us men, whenever we feel pain or whenever we feel weak, we go into hiding, we don't share it, and we don't open up*". And if there's anything that men don't share and open up about, especially over time and in the past, it's been about the issue of sexual integrity and sexual purity. But that's starting to change and it's exciting to see that change because our society has taken a real hit.

I think it began, and of course sexual integrity has been an issue since the beginning of time, but I think it began in terms of our situation in the United States in 1953. In 1953, I was born. That's right, I'm in my 60s, where everything hurts, or if it doesn't hurt it doesn't work. But in 1953, I was born the same year that *Playboy* was birthed out of the mind and the heart of Hugh Hefner. And the significance of that was that it wasn't just a magazine; it was a magazine that had philosophy, a philosophy that taught men how to be better men, or that was the premise. And one of the most destructive things that happened was that *Playboy* was labeled as soft porn, soft pornography. The dilemma with that was, a lot of people excused it, a lot of people thought, you know, it's not that bad. I remember going into a pastors home and seeing a *Playboy* and the pastor saying that he just simply read the articles, as if that was something important to read. But *Playboy* began a deterioration in our society because before *Playboy* if you wanted to have a pornographic experience, than you pretty much had to go down the drug store and buy a raunchy magazine, not one that was viewed as art, or you went to the XXX theater in a very shady part of town. Now it was almost like the stigma and the shame was taken off.

It began the proliferation of pornography throughout America and it really did change some of our ideas about pornography and women. And I just have to be really frank with you right up front, what that whole issue was about was about men gratifying themselves with pictures of beautiful women who didn't have their clothes on. And there were other magazines that came out after that, *Hustler* and *Penthouse*, things like that. There were some crusaders, that in the 1970s, after these other magazines began to surface, they were very concerned about women. And they said, you know, if this continues, if the proliferation of pornography in our society continues, women are not going to be safe in their own homes. Men are going to be so sexually stimulated, they're going come home, they're going to want to have sex with their wives, and they're not going to even treat them well and women are not going to be safe because of the hyper-sexual stimulation of men due to pornography. Well, I don't know if you noticed but that didn't happen. Because you see, when a person gets connected with pornography, the image of a woman and all that goes with that, then a real live human being, a normal woman, within the confines of a marriage, just doesn't do it for them anymore.

And so we've seen a deterioration in connection and sexual intimacy. We've seen dysfunction and we've seen sexual incompetency as a result of men becoming dependent upon pornography. All of that began long before the internet. And of course, when the internet came along, men hadn't been taught just how devastating getting hooked on pornography could be. They weren't taught that this could become an addiction, that it can become just as devastating as a drug addiction, that people could lose their jobs over it. In fact, I was just in Billings, Montana couple of weeks ago and a woman came up to me and told me her husband of 38 years is in prison because all that time he's been looking at child pornography and she didn't know it and the FBI came and arrested him. So when you look at the devastating effects of pornography it is just as devastating as a drug addiction.

One of the problems that we see happening, whether it's a dependency or a problem, or an addiction, is that there are all sorts of loves that are mentioned in the bible. We certainly know about agape love, which is all about giving, and we know about compassionate love, and we know about phileo love, or a love that's more like a friendship type of love. We know about romantic love. The book of Song of Solomon is dedicated to an entire type of love that you would call erotic love. And in that book that's dedicated to that very special wonderful kind of love that is created by God, there's a warning by God that we should not open up the door of erotic love too early; that we shouldn't experience it too early; we shouldn't turn it on or ignite it too soon and that's what happened in our society. And as a result, well, there are many results, and I want to talk to you about them.

Now I mentioned that I was born in 1953 and so was *Playboy*. I can tell you what that first centerfold was in that first magazine. It was Marilyn Monroe. And I can tell you what that centerfold looked like because it's still in my mind today all these years later. Now how do I know that? Because my grandfather, who I think you'd have to say was a sex addict, allowed me to go to his office as a 4 year old little boy, and why my Southern Baptist parents ever allowed that to happen I do not know, but when I was allowed to go to his office, there was Marilyn Monroe and many other pornographic images that I can still tell you all about right now. They were right there, and I learned from that experience that women are made for men's gratification. Women are objects. They're a set of body parts. That is what I came to believe.

When I had the freedom to date I was very promiscuous. I was raised in a Christian home but I was promiscuous and then that promiscuity, that using women for my own gratification, resulted in a pregnancy, and I literally forced a woman to have an abortion. I paid for that abortion after I forced her to get it and I essentially paid for the destruction of my own child and I dealt with the guilt and the shame of that for years and I don't blame anybody but I have to tell you the seeds of that destruction were planted back in the office of my grandfather many, many years ago.

And many other people had seeds that were planted early on and they blossomed and here's what happens, there's some problems that are created and I've already mentioned this one, the problem of objectification of women. Where women are demeaned, they're seen as something less than a man. And a man uses that woman.

Now a lot of time, a man never stops to think when he's looking at pornography, that this is a daughter, this is someone's sister, maybe, but certainly a daughter, every girl there, every woman there is a daughter. He doesn't realize that most women that are in the sex industry are there by force. A man will get a girl involved in a modeling contract, then take all the information to fill out the W-9 form, and then when he wants her to do something that she's not comfortable with, he threatens her, that he'll kill her family, he's got the address right there. It's happened over and over again. I was listening to a woman talk who was in sex trafficking for two years. She explained how she went from a model home and within 5 weeks she was performing sex for another man so that her parents wouldn't be killed, that was the threat. So many women get into the sex

industry at age 13 and 14 now, it's pretty tragic. And as long as there is demand, then there's going to be supply. And as long as we stop viewing women as Daughters of the King, fearfully and wonderfully made by God, something inferior, something merely objects, then we'll never walk in integrity as men. Proverbs 10:9 says "*he who walks in integrity walks securely*" and it's so tragic when that doesn't happen. 89% of the women in the sex industry want out, but they don't know how. And any time a man clicks on a picture or pulls up something on the internet or looks at a magazine, it's all part of keeping that woman involved in an industry she most likely doesn't want to be a part of. It's all part of objectification and it's the least honoring thing that a man can do for a woman.

Now, a lot of people function under what I call a bifurcation myth. Bifurcation means that two things aren't connected. So they think that you can do all this stuff as a single person and then one day you get married and there's a split and you eat some wedding cake and you're a totally different person. So you can use pornography and then of course pornography fuels the desire and many people go on to massage parlors and prostitutes and lap dancers and all sorts of things, but wedding cake isn't as powerful as people think. It doesn't clear things up, and if you have a problem as a single person it doesn't get better when you get married it gets worse. That's the bifurcation myth that if I get married it's going to really be fabulous and wonderful and it's not. It's going to get worse, because you're not a man of integrity. And it all goes back to that *Playboy* philosophy where you think the world's got it together and Hugh Hefner had it and he doesn't. Proverbs 14:12 says "*there is before every person a very wide a pleasant road that seems so right, but in the end it is so very wrong.*" And that's what's happened to men with pornography, and the bifurcation myth isn't true.

I have a friend, she's a female, and you'd say on a scale of 1 to 10 as far as beauty, looks, all that is concerned, she'd be a 10. She married her high school sweetheart and on the honeymoon night they had sex and he could not be the man he wanted to be so he had to pull out a Penthouse centerfold, he put it down on the bed beside her to perform. You see because pornography has a neutering effect on men. And it's devastating to a man. It's no secret that there are so many sexual dysfunction drugs on the market today because a man is so attuned to the image or the detached experience of sex. Sex that's all about him and his gratification, that true sexual intimacy just simply isn't possible.

Matthew 5:28 says "*but I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*" Not lusting after an object is how we stay pure and when we're looking at pornography it's not an object, it's a woman. And so we need to do whatever it takes to develop a life of integrity and purity as men.

Now another problem that develops is a problem of compartmentalization. A lot of people, they have this little private little sex life that's sectioned off and in this little compartment over here, this little box of secrets, and this nasty little box of secrets becomes their sexuality and it's not integrated into the rest of who they are. Because, see it's the job of every man and every adolescent to integrate sexuality into all of who he is. Into his social life, his physical life, mental life, marital life, every area of his life needs to be healthily integrated together. But when sex is compartmentalized away, you never have a healthy man, and it's very difficult to get close to or have a healthy relationship with him.

If you don't understand that compartmentalization or lack of integration, it's like a person who is very godly on Sunday, but during the week he wreaks havoc on his family or employees. You'd have to say, "*Well, his spiritual life isn't integrated into the rest of his life.*" And so he's a hypocrite and he's sick. It's the same way with sexuality. When we compartmentalize, when we keep it secret and we integrate it, it just gets worse, because we truly are, in the words of a great woman, Barbara Johnson, only as sick as our secrets. That's why when we see in James 5:16 "*confess*

your sins one to another and pray for each other that you might be healed", now that's where we have openness and honesty and that's where we start to come out and reveal the secrets that are there. And then we want to confess with our mouths the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that He has been raised from the dead, then according to Romans 10:9 "*we'll be saved*" and that's what we want to see people experience, salvation, not just for eternal life but the salvation of relationships and wholeness and healing here on earth.

Well another problem that we have of course is you get disconnected because sin divides people. Sin destroys the lives of people, and so there's a disconnection because of the guilt and the shame between you and God. And there's a disconnection between a man and his wife whenever there's unfaithfulness. Because when we honor our vows, we don't just honor our vows to not have physiological or physical sex with someone, but it must be that we keep them out of our lives, our minds, our hearts; that we don't look upon other people, that we don't luxuriate in the lustful images that are around us everywhere.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 says "*stay away from all sexual sin, then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and His paths.*" So we want to be connected, and sin, the sin of pornography, disconnects.

So let's just review what does this problem do to wonderful, believing Christian men when they get trapped into it. Well, you're divided. Your heart is divided. You want to be one way, but you're a different way you're not congruent anymore what you say and what you do become two separate things. And what you want is a congruency of sexual integrity, where everything that you do sexually is known by your wife, is approved by your wife and involves your wife. That's really the standard right there.

So we have this disconnection between God and ourselves, between our spouses, between who we are and a disconnection between who God wants us to be in the life that were living. How sad it is that the Christian life for some men is waking up every day wondering, "*Well, am I going to be a good boy today or am I going to be a bad boy today?*" Good, bad, right, wrong; hardly the life of a person who's living a fulfilled life, a transformed life. And the problem with sexual dysfunction, the problem with deeming women, the problem with supporting an industry that enslaves and traps women, all of that comes simply from the lustful look of a man in a pornographic setting. And as it becomes dependence or an addiction, then they move on to higher risks, different levels of dependency and it just creates a sicker and sicker situation that can cost a person their job, their marriage, their health, all sorts of other things.

So what can men do? Well, when I wrote the book with Fred Stoeker, *Every Man's Battle*, we called men out and we said come on, let's be men. And I have to tell you after 3 million books have sold, a lot of men have been called out. But let me just tell you some things that you can do. In that book, people say that one of the reasons that it was a best seller then and continues as a best seller, is that it gave you something to do. It didn't just tell you that you were bad, it gave you something to do. One of the things it said was to bounce your eyes. When your eyes look at something or you see something that they shouldn't, bounce them away, look the other way.

When peripheral vision says something's coming toward me that shouldn't be there you look away. I remember being in an airport with Kenny Luck and we were coming on a moving sidewalk this way, and you can out of the corner of our eyes, peripheral vision, a beautiful blond coming the other way, and we just looked each other in the eyes and Kenny said, "*not mine, not mine, not mine.*" You need to look away and not get hooked on it.

Also you need to guard, not just your eyes, you need to guard your mind. You know the mind of a man it's almost like a corral of horses. We have a mustang mind, and anything you put in

the corral of a mustang it's going to want to have a sexual experience with it. So when something enters that mind, we need to walk it right out. And then of course, you guard the heart. How do you guard your heart? Well, you put God's word in it. But you also bring healthy men around you, because real men become real men in the company of real men. It's the only way it can happen.

So that's what we laid out in that book and today it still works for men. In fact, a lot of men that discovered that this sex drive that they thought they had every time they looked at these images it was just feeding that sex drive, and they ended up with what we call the Sumo Wrestler sex drive, and when you start to starve the Sumo, look away, something amazing happens.

Not only do you not want to look at that stuff, but you're drawn back to your wife and things that maybe weren't all that attractive become quite attractive to you. There is tremendous victory that's available if you're willing to experience it. So *Every Man's Battle* has those three things that you can do, guard your eyes, your mind and your heart. Bounce your eyes away, walk things out of the corral of your mind that shouldn't be there and then put into your heart God's word and surround yourself with men.

One of the things that we've suggested people do to help is take this dare. There's a website called *WeDared.com*. Take a dare to go 30 days without looking at anything that drives or fuels the lust in your heart. And when you do that, when you go to *WeDared.com*, we send you a devotional to help you. And if you don't make it 30 days you click a button and we'll send you an additional 30 days so you can say hey at least I went 30 days. But, if you can't, I mean, here's where James 5:16 comes in and you start to confess your sins one to another. You open up to somebody and it starts to take the power out of it. You need to find some people, some men that you can be open and honest with this problem. That's how you find victory. So get in the group or start a group and we can help you start a group. I think every church ought to have a men's group of some kind and if it's worth its salt it's going to deal with sexual integrity. Because there are a lot of women in Christian churches who are having an absolutely horrible life, sexually, because their man is not faithful with their eyes.

Job was faithful with his eyes. He said "*I made a covenant with my eyes not to look upon the women of the day*" and that's what we want to see other men do. You can read *Every Man's Battle*, there's an intensive workshop you can go to if you have a problem, and we've had over 12,000 men go to that workshop. And every time a pastor calls us and says I need help, and it's so common, they call us at 1-800-New-Life and we help that pastor for free, because we want to make a difference in the lives of the ministry that their having and many men, many male pastors have never called out the men of their church because they're struggling with this very issue. The standard. Ephesians 5:3 "*Among you there must be not even a hint of sexual immorality*", and if there's not a hint that means nothing. That means you can't rationalize, you can't minimize what you're doing.

Galatians 5:16 says "*So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit, then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, we will produce this kind of fruit in us, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*" And of course, a lot people gloss over or miss that need for us to have self-control. And what pornography does, it goes from being a problem that a man has, to becoming a problem that has the man, and it removes the ability to control yourself. But there's hope, there tremendous hope. Hebrews 8:12 says "*And I will forgive their wickedness and I will never again remember their sins.*" What a great thing, that you can come to the Lord with this problem and He will forgive your sin and He may even take away the desire. You may even find yourself delivered from the desire, miraculously.

But even if you're delivered, or if you make a decision, or however you decide to find that amazing path of sexual integrity, you need the process of sanctification. Where you're growing, and you're character is building as you, in this sanctification process, or separating yourself more from the world, are growing closer in intimacy to God and to God's people.

It's just like the transformation process. It says don't be conformed to the world but be transformed by changing the way you think by renewing your mind. And you're going to have to think a little bit differently if you're going to have a victory in this area.

Now a lot of people are aware they have a problem and a lot of men not only are aware but they desire for it to be better. Well, awareness and desire are really good things. But awareness and desire by themselves will get you nowhere. You have to add one more element. And we call that willingness. Willingness. You become aware, you want something better, and you become willing to do what it takes.

I like to think about *Outback Steakhouse* and those deep fried onion blossoms that kill people every day from eating them. They have defibrillators there just to bring people back to life; it can't take everybody, it can't help everybody or bring everybody back, and rather than take them out front, they take them out back; that's why it's called *Outback Steakhouse*. But you have to sit there watching people do some things that they think are just fine and you have to be willing to say, "*I'm not going to do that. I am going to dare to be different*", and that's the same way it is here. What are you willing to do to be different? To say no to some things that other people think are just fine. Are you willing to do something different? Are you willing to take some action?

Take the dare at *WeDared.com*, read the book *Every Man's Battle*, start a group, join a group, show the person in your life that may have been affected by your lack of sexual integrity that you are going to become the man that God has always called you to be. 1 John 3:3 says, "*Everyone who has this hope in Him, purifies himself, just as Jesus Christ is pure.*"

I just wonder if something I've said has caused you to think about, "*maybe it's time for me to purify myself.*" And if so, I hope that you will do something that your willingness will result in an action to make your life better, to establish a life of sexual integrity. I think it can begin with 30 days of sexual purity focusing only on things that are good and wonderful and not generating a lustful heart. And we'll help you do that at *WeDared.com*.

God loves you. God needs you as a man of God, and so often this area of sexual impurity has been used so well by God, not to just neuter a man in the life of sex and sexual intimacy but also neuter him in the area of ministry where a lot of people who need to be led by a man of integrity have no one to lead them because the leader is lacking. I hope and pray that if that is your situation, you will take up the mantle of leadership and you will show people what it is like to go from living a double life, a life that is not pure, that does not have integrity, to living a life that honors God every single day. You know it's about so much more than just looking at dirty pictures. It's about your soul you heart and it's also about the souls and the hearts of women.

I hope you'll be willing to take the dare and be different. And you do that for 30 days and I think you're going to want to do that for an entire lifetime. If you need some help with anything, you can call us at New Life at 1-800-New-Life. God bless you, and thank you for listening to my words today.

For more information on booking Steve Arterburn to preach at your church or speak at one of your events, please contact Elizabeth Stuart at elizabeths@newlife.com

For information on *New Life Ministries*, please visit our website at newlife.com or call 1-800-New-Life (1-800-639-5433)