

CA 15 EMAW 15 SEX AND MORAL PURITY

Music Theme

FOSTER: Thomas is a helicopter rescue pilot. And he's had battles all his life. It was a battle to finish high school. A battle to finish college. He battled to get hired as a helicopter rescue pilot. And now he battles high winds, rainstorms, and seemingly every type of risk to save injured people. In Tom's 45 years he's overcome every battle, but one. The battle that rages in his mind—the battle with lust.

Welcome to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. I need to start this program with a warning. If you have children with you that can hear this, I would suggest you have them go somewhere else, because we are going to discuss the challenges men face with sexual temptation and purity. While we won't get explicit, this discussion will not be appropriate for young ears. As we continue our series on equipping God's men to be warriors for God, we must discuss one of the major vulnerabilities men have—lust. This issue affects every man listening, either directly or indirectly so please stay with us here at Champions Arise.

Music Theme out

FOSTER: You know Kent, I think Tom's battle with lust is a secret plague among men in the church.

KENT: I would agree. And you said two key words there: "secret" and "plague." It is rarely admitted or discussed even though the lust problem really is a plague. It's a common struggle for men. I remember hearing a story about an older man—in his seventies—who was asked by a younger man, "What's it like to finally be at the stage in life, where lust isn't a problem anymore? And the older man responded, "I'll let you know when I get there.

But this program isn't about putting men down. It's for helping them to become the men God wants them to be.

FOSTER: Kent, this is such a broad topic. Where do you want to start?

KENT: I think we need to start by looking at what God's ideal is. In our world, we've been so immersed in a distortion of God's plan for men and women sexually, that many men don't even know what God's design is.

I've heard it said that when the FBI, or M15, or CSIS, the ASIO train their agents to spot counterfeit money, they spend almost all of their time studying real bills. That way when a fake bill turns up, they recognize it immediately.

FOSTER: I've heard that too. It makes sense.

KENT: Yes. And the same applies to sexual purity. So I want start our conversation by telling our listeners about a couple that illustrates God's design for sex.

Adam and Bev were both raised in Christian homes. They lived just a few miles apart and met at a church retreat when Adam was 18 and Bev 16. They were immediately attracted to each another. Adam had never had such an intense interest in a girl before. And Bev was feeling

emotions and excitement that she'd never had before. And two years after their first date they were married.

They had stayed pure sexually during their courtship and their wedding night was a little bit awkward, but during the next few days they learned.

Adam couldn't believe the beauty of his wife's body and Bev was overwhelmed by the new emotions exploding inside her. She wanted to reveal herself to him and gave herself to him with complete abandonment.

FOSTER: For many men, that sounds almost too good too be true.

KENT: Well God's plans are too good, but true. See, during their wedding night, a flood of God-designed hormones and endorphins were released in both of them. These chemicals were creating a "God-designed glue," between Adam and Bev that brought a oneness of their souls. In God's plan, Adam and Bev would be bonded together for life.

Adam and Bev led what many would call "a sheltered life." In fact, about ten years into their marriage and after four kids, Adam had a shocking experience. He was away on a business trip when another man showed him a pornographic picture. Adam was repulsed. He had never seen a naked woman other than his wife. Adam believed that what he and his wife shared was something pure and beautiful. Anything else felt dirty.

FOSTER: Had never seen a picture of a naked woman.

KENT: No. In this world, that seems almost incomprehensible, But Adam had done it. And I might add that he and Bev were married for 72 years.

Adam died when he was 92. And that God-designed-glue was broken for the first time. And so was Bev's heart. She died ten days after Adam.

FOSTER: Wow. That's an amazing story.

KENT: And I share that for all of us, but particularly the single men out there to let them know that God's plan works. But here at Champions Arise we know that there are many, many men whose stories didn't go like Adam and Bev. So now I want to tell you about a man that choose a different path.

FOSTER: but first, if you tuned in late, this is Champions Arise. I am Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. Today we are discussing sex and moral purity and as I said earlier, if you have young children with you that can hear our discussion, you probably want them to go into another room, because though we aren't going to get explicit, this is a conversation for older teen and adult men. Ok Kent we're ready for the other story... I think.

KENT: Well this story takes place about 50 years after the other one. This is Max's story. Max's dad and mom divorced when he was five years old. His mom had to work full time, so he was left alone a lot. When Max was ten, she remarried a man who also worked long hours so Max mostly hung out with other boys from the neighborhood.

One day Max found a hidden box of pornographic magazines in the garage. He showed his friends and together they laughed and enjoyed their new sense of manhood. By the time Max was 16, he was already experimenting with girls in the neighborhood. One girl in particular he pushed into having sex with him. He never felt bad about it because, from the stories and pictures he had seen, he thought this was how women wanted to be treated.

FOSTER: You know that is one of Satan's biggest deceptions and for a young man to be thinking that way is just....tragic.

KENT: Yes because, in Max's case, he was 6'2", good looking and athletic. So when he was in college the girls threw themselves at him. He joined a fraternity where drinking and sex were the norm.

But when he graduated and wanted to settle down, his mind stayed in the same pit. Even after he married the most beautiful girl he had ever known, he still looked at pornography on a daily basis. And he continued to have sex with other women. His first affair was shortly after the wedding.

FOSTER: really!

After about 20 years, Max and His wife became Christians. But he finally sought help because he was still looking at pornography every day, and his wife had just discovered his most recent affair—with her best friend.

FOSTER: Kent. I think the only thing more depressing than that story is the fact that so many of our men can relate to it.

KENT: Yes. But the good news is they are listening to us. And my friend we are here to encourage you. With God all things are possible.

We know that the story of Bev and Adam seems almost impossible to our single listeners and even to our married listeners, but it's not. But we have to take intentional steps to achieve biblical sexuality in our lives.

FOSTER: What steps?

KENT: First we have to accept that God's plan is better.

FOSTER: Don't we already know that?

KENT: No. There are single men out there who don't believe there is any harm in having sex now. They don't believe that God can meet their sexual needs in a safe and healthy way until marriage. And they falsely believe that once they get married, they will be able to limit their sexual appetite to their wife. But as we saw with Max, that is often not true—even among Christians. I remember hearing someone teach that "when lust takes over, God becomes unreal."

FOSTER: That actually makes sense. I think it was a joke, but I read the statement "When you fall in love, your brain shuts down all the endorphins that relate to common sense."

KENT: That's good. And whether it's a joke or not, I think there is a lot of truth in that saying. But lust acts the same way. That's why married men need to understand this too. Anything other than sexual intimacy with our wife is outside of God's plan. But when we allow lust to take over, it shuts down our connection to God and we sin.

Listen to what Proverbs 5 says—starting with verse 15: [5:15-23 (NLT)]

Drink water from your own well—share your love only with your wife.

Why spill the water of your springs in the streets, having sex with just anyone?

[and I think it's safe to add here – that includes virtual lust or virtual sex on the computer] verse 17 continues

You should reserve it for yourselves. Never share it with strangers.

Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. She is a loving deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts satisfy you always. May you always be captivated by her love. “

[I like that captive-ated. Held captive by her love]

Verse 20. “Why be captivated... by an immoral woman, or fondle the breasts of a promiscuous woman?

[and again I would add – or lust over a woman's nakedness in a magazine or on the computer]

verse 21 “For the LORD sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes.

An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him. He will die for lack of self-control; he will be lost because of his great foolishness.”

How many men do we know that this applies to? One may be in the mirror. And that brings us to the next step toward biblical sexuality.

Admit that your lust or sexual promiscuity is a sin and that there are consequences for it.

FOSTER: You said earlier that when lust takes over God becomes unreal. And I would think that when God becomes unreal to us, Satan blinds us to the consequences.

KENT: Satan might, but the Bible doesn't. We just read in Proverbs, “He will die for lack of self-control,”

Malachi 2 verse 14 says. You cry out, “Why doesn't the LORD accept my worship?” I'll tell you why! Because the LORD witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows.”

God takes lust very seriously. And if you want to be the man of God He knows you can be, the sexual immorality has to stop.

FOSTER: So we need to acknowledge that God's plan is best and there are severe consequences for not following God's plan. What else?

KENT: We need to repent of our sexual sins. That means turn around and stop. Stop looking at women on the computer or in magazines, having sex with your girlfriend, or having the affair. Stop.

Next, get help to stop. Talk to a church leader, get an accountability partner, check out the ministries that help in this area on the Champions Arise website.

Last, have your daily quiet times with God and memorize scriptures that deal with sexual purity like Romans 6 verses 12-14.

My friend it sounds hard—because it is, but if you take these steps you can do it. Do it for your Lord. Do it for your wife. Do it to stop your sins from going generationally through your sons, and do it for yourself.

FOSTER: Thanks Kent for that important challenge. And my friend, be encouraged by 1 Corinthians 10 verse 13

“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”

(Program close)

FOSTER: Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we discussed the importance of living your sexual life based on biblical principles. This program is based on lesson #9 in the book “Every Man a Warrior,” Volume 3, by Lonnie Berger. His book has much more on this topic and you can find out about his book at our website. This programs and the programs on quiet times are there as well. Finally, if you need help in the area of sexual purity, there are ministry links at our website, which is championsarise.org. I’m Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. Thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.