

Family Legacy Institute

Tools For Families Building Godly Legacies

Breaking Chains

By Dr. John P. Splinter

"But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make" (Jeremiah 18:4).

For ease in reading, this booklet is broken down into three 10-minute sections. Days of the Week are used to identify each section, beginning with Monday.

Monday

It is entirely likely that *the greatest struggle of manhood is that of managing male sexuality*. It's not at all the smooth James Bond glide portrayed on the silver screen. Rather, it's more like riding a Brahma bull ~ often unsuccessfully. After the onset of puberty with its testosterone flooding and concomitant afflictions, there are two times that male sexuality seems to settle down. The first is the half hour immediately after intercourse. The second is somewhere after age 93. Male sex drive never completely goes away, but in those two moments of life it becomes somewhat more manageable.

It is so powerful that it completely overwhelms many men – perhaps most men. The years between 12 and 52 are so sexually alive that many men feel a need for temporary release so they can function with some semblance of normalcy. A commonly used male format for offloading sexual drive is masturbation, a habit often beginning in early adolescence and in some men, carrying on until death.

In some ways masturbation is like a steam valve that releases pressure when it reaches the high pressure level. In other ways it's like a demon whose fangs are sunk into a man's soul, pumping venom into the man's character and damaging his real relationship with his wife. And somewhere around the edges of many men's sexuality stands a wife who **a)** can never keep up with the man's fantasies, **b)** sadly wonders why she's not enough, and **c)** sometimes quietly wonders if she married Jack the Ripper's cousin.

This article is written for men who have struggled long and hard with this dichotomy of releasing the steam valve while at the same time sensing an increasing ownership by sexual demons. These men understand the damming and controlling nature of slavery. They have tried scores – perhaps thousands – of times to leave the world of sexual fantasy and release. But the battle is sometimes like trying to ride the Brahma bull ~ they fall off after a short time, and the places they land sometimes create their own problems.

Where do they land? At the very least, they land in mental sexual activity with some woman in their heads. But sometimes they land in affairs, or in bed with a hooker. And the story line often goes downhill from there. Indeed, there is no bottom to the slide of sexual debauchery. So for these guys, this booklet is a snippet of hope and a path toward the spiritual power to overcome ~ spiritual power, because this is first and foremost a spiritual struggle.

First Question: Can God Forgive Me?

This may sound like a silly question, given the fact that Christ died for all sin. However, many men face this question after their 1,000th, or 10,000th sexual failure. Will God tire of my failures and repeated repentance? Is there a spiritual “line” somewhere that I have crossed, beyond which there is no forgiveness and no hope? Since human sexuality, more than anything else, is a spiritual issue, it’s appropriate that we go to scripture in order to provide wisdom and answers. Here are four spiritual responses to that nagging question.

Response #1: How bad are you?

Thankfully, scripture contains stories of some very bad sinners whom God forgave and then used in His service. For example, Moses was a murderer before God ever launched him as a national leader (Ex. 2:11-12). King David was a voyeur turned adulterer who attempted to hide an adulterous affair through murder (2 Samuel 11). The Apostle Paul was what today we’d call an “accessory to murder” (Acts 22:20) and was personally responsible for the imprisonment of many believers (Acts 8:3). So how bad are you? Can you top these biblical examples? Apparently God is willing and able to forgive even the most heinous sinners.

There’s a scripture verse that gives real comfort here. It says, ***“Where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Rom 5:20)***. A paraphrase might say something like this: “You can’t out-sin God’s ability to give grace. No matter how badly you screw up, He’s always able to forgive, heal, and restore.” So how bad are you?

Response #2: Do you struggle with slavery?

The word “slave” is a hard word. Nobody likes calling themselves a slave. But research says that approximately half of men and a third of women are slaves to sexuality. Scripture addresses slavery. The Apostle Paul wrote, ***“Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey ~ whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?” (Rom 6:16-17)***. And the Apostle Peter pretty much echoed the thought when he said, ***“A man is a slave to whatever has mastered him” (2 Peter 2:19)***. We’ll call that the *bad* news.

The *good* news is that Christ has broken the chains of slavery. Paul put it this way, ***“You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness” (Rom 6:18)***.

There was a moment at the Appomattox Court House, on April **9**, 1865, when the American Civil War ended, as General Robert E. Lee of the Confederacy surrendered to General Ulysses S.

Grant of the Union. At that moment the Civil War officially ended. So what do you think the slaves in the South did on April 10, 1865? What does a slave do the day after their freedom is...