

WARM UP | The way Eskimos kill wolves is ingenious. They will coat the blade of a sharp hunting knife with blood and let the blood freeze on the blade. This is then repeated until the blade is completely hidden by the frozen blood. The hilt of the knife is then planted in the ground, with the blade sticking up. When the wolf smells the blood he will begin to lick the lethal popsicle. As he proceeds, the blood melts, and eventually exposes the sharp edge. The lust for more blood drives the animal to lick faster and faster, never realizing he is now licking his own blood. In the end, the wolf bleeds to death on the snow, and the Eskimo has his prey.

This powerfully illustrates the deceptive nature of lust and the severity of the consequences when a man fails to keep it under control.



READ | Proverbs 6:23-35

BACKGROUND |

As the popular book's title suggests, sexual temptation really is "Every Man's Battle". Sometimes just knowing and accepting that is the beginning of victory for many men. Sadly, the issue of sexual immorality is one of the least taught about subjects in many churches, yet it is one of the leading causes of Christian men becoming shipwrecked in their faith. As men who follow Christ, we must be committed to doing all we can to guard our hearts and minds from this blood-coated blade of deceit and destruction, before it brings death into our lives.



QUESTIONS |

- 1 In Proverbs 6:27-28 the point is clear: If we try to hold fire to our chest or walk on hot coals we will get burned! Likewise, those who venture into sexual sin will suffer for it. In what ways do we and others suffer when we commit sexual sin?

RIGHT CONSOLE

- 2 Proverbs 6:32 tells us that when a person commits adultery, they lack understanding. What do Christian men need to understand about the consequences of lust, sexual sin, and how it can lead to adultery?
- 3 How can you practically support each other in this area as Christian brothers by being "the fence at the top of the cliff," rather than the "ambulance at the bottom"? Refer to Proverbs 6:23-24.

CONSIDER THIS |

One of the most helpful things I have found in the area of maintaining sexual purity is to "break the chain" that leads us towards sin. For example, we may be tempted towards internet pornography or tempted to stare at magazine covers in the post office. Looking at your own life, think very carefully about how you get tempted. Consider the factors that are out of your control (i.e. flirtatious work colleague), and those in your control (i.e. use of internet) and set boundaries and personal guidelines to limit the chance of giving in to that temptation. What "links" in the chain can you remove or weaken? Be radical if you need to be. Billy Graham resolved never to be alone with a woman apart from his wife and that commitment has helped him to maintain sexual purity his entire life. Do what it takes, it will be worth it!

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER |

What do I need to apply from what I have learned from this study?

IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER |

WRAP UP | Do some individual research on internet filtering software and resources designed to help men maintain sexual purity. Share your collective findings next time you meet and discuss how these may be of benefit to you as men desiring to have a clean life in a dirty world.