

The Cost of Sexual Sin

Whenever I find myself vulnerable to sexual temptation or even infidelity, I need to first review what effects my actions will have on my life and in my relationships if they are carried out. Some, but not all would be:

1. Grieving the Lord who redeemed me.
2. Dragging his Sacred Name in the mud.
3. Having one day to look Jesus, the Righteous Judge in the face, and give account of my actions.
4. Following in the footsteps of the men whose immorality has resulted in forfeiting their ministries and testimony of faith. (List their names)
5. Inflicting untold hurt on my loyal wife and best friend.
6. Losing my wife's respect and trust.
7. Hurting my beloved children.
8. Destroying my example and credibility to my children and nullifying both present and future efforts to teach them to obey God. "Why listen to a man who betrayed both mom and us."
9. If my blindness should continue or my wife be unable to forgive, perhaps losing my wife and my children forever.
10. Causing shame to my family. "Why isn't Daddy a pastor any more?"
11. Loosing self respect, living in remorse and affecting every friend and family relationship because of the hurt caused by my choices.
12. Creating a form of guilt that is awfully hard to shake even though God would forgive me, would I be able to forgive myself?
13. Creating flashbacks and memories that will plague all future intimacy with my wife.
14. Wasting years of ministry training and experience for a long time, maybe permanently.
15. Reinforcing the distrust for and giving even more ammunition to those who already distrust those in ministry and ultimately hindering their ability to open their hearts to the love of Christ because of my hypocrisy.
16. Undermining the faithful example and hard work of other Christians in our community.
17. Giving great pleasure to Satan the enemy of God and all that is good.
18. Heaping judgment, shame and endless difficulty on the person with whom I committed adultery.
19. Possibly bearing the physical consequences of diseases such as gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes or aids and as a result, infecting my wife and perhaps even causing her premature death.
20. Destroying the possibility of future joy in physical intimacy because of the fear of these diseases.
21. Bringing shame and hurt to my fellow pastors and elders. (List their names)
22. Possibly causing a pregnancy with that person and creating financial obligations and consequences, including the lifelong reminder of my sin.
23. Causing shame and hurt to my friends and those that I've led to Christ.