

YOUR LIFE IN THE **RED ZONE**

PORNOGRAPHY

REPLAY

Coach sends you in as quarterback. You crouch down behind the center and look over the opposing team. The blood drains from your face as you recognize the linebacker; it's Mike. Mike holds records for the most sacks in a season and all-time career sacks. "Hope you ate your Wheaties this morning, bud!" he yells at you.

The few seconds after the snap prove you didn't. Mike slips past your center, dodges your offensive guard, and slams into you. You hear a bone crack as you land hard on your shoulder. Your first play today, and you got sacked!

GAME BOOK

The single problem that devastates more Christian men today than any other is pornography. Like Mike, it will destroy you. It's a spiritual killer. It destroys lives and relationships. It builds a false intimacy. You cannot afford to let it destroy your life!

The Bible says much about sexual purity. God holds a high standard and expects you to live in it. Problem is that you can't avoid sexual advertising these days. Magazines, billboards, television commercials all show too much skin. The goal is not to sell you on the product but on the packaging. And all of these are used by the Enemy to tempt you into finding something more explicit. Remember this important point, temptation to sin is not a sin (James 1:14-15). Temptation is a challenge to be overcome.

You cannot allow even a small amount of sexual sin in your life (Ephesians 5:3). Many people today will use *your* sexual sin as another excuse to avoid Christianity. What you think of as a private sin actually gives the whole church a black eye.

You also have to plan ahead for the next attack. It will come when you are most vulnerable. But rest assured that God is faithful and "will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). God wants you to live free of sexual sin and live a holy and honorable life (1 Thessalonians 4:3). And if God has called you to it, rest assured that He will enable you to fulfill that calling. All you have to do is follow Him.

TAKE-AWAY

You can't avoid the temptation, but you can avoid the sin. When tempted, turn to the Father immediately. His strength will carry you where you cannot go.

If you sin and indulge, ask Him to forgive you. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

If you aren't involved in pornography or other sexual sin, avoid it. Praise God that He has kept you safe thus far, but remember that you too are vulnerable.

If you are involved in pornography, you have to get out. Most men find it difficult to get out, but you have to. It's not an easy journey but books like "The Game Plan" by Joe Dallas and "Everyman's Battle" by Steve Arterburn and Fred Stoeker will help you on your journey. Then, next time you see Mike line up with the defense, you can dodge him and get a pass airborne!