

Untamed Passions

The Lord has a purpose in the way he created you as a man.

Men are goal-oriented!

- Life for most men is a series of obstacles to be conquered!
- For most Men, all of life is spent trophy hunting: whether it is a position, job, vehicle, sexual exploit, life experience.
- A man's sense of self is defined thru his ability to achieve goals.
 - This is the main reason we are drawn to the athletics and competition. We want to WIN!!! We want to CONQUER!!!
- Show me a guy who is focused on a goal, and I'll show you a guy who will become irritated and frustrated if the pursuit of that goal is interrupted, and will be restless until he is back focused on the goal.

Men view distance as safety!

- Key word here is distance.
- Intimacy is unheard of in most male-to-male relationships past high school.
- Intimacy's original God-intended purpose is foreign in most male-to-female relationships.
- Most men want friends who they can develop meaningful relationships with, but they are afraid of the unspoken: "in-to-me-see."

Men have "tunnel vision"!

- Let me make this simple: We all have brain damage!
 - Men are left-brain thinkers where logic and reason rule.
 - How many times have you said, "That don't make sense."
- God designed us to be single-minded!
- Men were created to compartmentalize, prioritize, and isolate!
 - This is great, except for the fact that we can do this in relationships and in business with sin and no one know it!
- QUICK TIP: Due to our tunnel-vision, most men are easily distracted and discouraged by multiple activities or challenges! We need specific solutions!

Men prefer rules over relationships.

- Men love rules because they are how we roll!
- With a new game, the first question a man will ask, "How do you play the game? What are the rules?"
- Men love rules to the point we prefer them over relationships.
- Rules bring order...but promote distance. But that's where men feel safe! Distance is safety!
- The church is the proof.

- Most men love Man-Law! If we had Man-Law in the church, we would fill the place with men.
- But we have taken the church and created an attitude of tolerance toward the rules!
- That's why the church is sooooo boring for most men!

You need to understand this about yourself! "Many are the plans of a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21

I believe King David was like us. I believe he was a hunter, outdoorsman, a competitor, a warrior, a leader of leaders. I can see David testing the strength and draw of the bows, the balance and sharpness of the spears, the speed and agility of the horses, the plans and strategies of the captains of his army. That's why King David was declared to be "a man after God's own heart!"

In the Psalms, David wrote:

"As a deer thirsts for streams of water, so I thirst for you, God."

Psalm 42:1

I not only believe David was like us, but I believe he understood God's purpose! David was passionate about his God and loyal to his call on his life. David understood God's purpose for him when we see him:

- Slay the lion and the bear with his bare hands
- Slay Goliath with a sling shot
- Respect God's anointed leader enough to give up his life for the king's sake
- Amass an army of men loyal to him because he was loyal to them
- Spare King Saul when he had the chance to kill him in the cave
- Battle and win the ark back in order that the presence of God return to Israel
- Dance with total abandonment over the presence of God returning
- I could go on and on!

What a man! What a King! So what happened to David when he slept with Bathsheba?

First, he lost focus of his “Goal”!

- The scriptures tell us in II Samuel 11:1, “In the spring, when the kings normally went out to war, David sent out Joab”
- David lost focus of the goal God had for him, namely, leading his men!
- David still had a conquering spirit, it’s just he focused on the wrong goal!
 - Bathsheba was not the goal: The greatness of knowing this woman was not the goal!
- David lost focus of the goal: The greatness of knowing his God!
 - Paul said in Philippians 3:8-14 “...all things are worth nothing compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine. Christ wants me to do that...I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above.
- Nothing has changed. War is the focus! It springtime, Men! It’s time we rise up!

Second, David distanced himself from his closest friends!

- David’s first step towards distancing himself happened when he didn’t step out onto the battlefield with his men.
- David’s second step towards distancing himself happened when he called the warrior Uriah home and gave him a gift, got him drunk, and eventually sent him to the front lines and ordered his commander Joab to “put him where he would be killed.”
- David’s third step towards distancing himself happened when Bathsheba “...became David’s wife and gave birth to his son, but the LORD did not like what David had done.”
- David lost focus and pulled away from God. That’s where he felt safest.
 - You may feel where you are is the safest place for you right now, but God thinks otherwise.
 - You need a brother. You need a friend. You need a Jonathan. You need the Lord.
 - The horse *is* prepared against the day of battle: but safety *is* of the LORD. Pro. 21:31
 - For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety. Pro. 24:6

Third, David got “tunnel vision” and pulled “the rule” out!

- In 2 Samuel 12 the prophet Nathan shows up and tells David the “Rich Man/Poor Man” story and, “David became very angry at the rich man. He said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this should die! ⁶ He must pay for the lamb four times for doing such a thing. He had no mercy!”
- Notice the “tunnel vision” principle from scripture.
 - Matthew 7 says “Don’t judge others, or you will be judged.
² You will be judged in the same way that you judge others, and

the amount you give to others will be given to you. ³ “Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend’s eye, but you don’t notice the big piece of wood in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your friend, ‘Let me take that little piece of dust out of your eye’? Look at yourself! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye. ⁵ You hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend’s eye.

- David reasoned: $A + B = C$. Let’s make him pay!!! But he forgot about BIG “D”. He forgot about himself!
- “Tunnel vision” causes us to see other people’s faults without seeing ours.
- Notice how “the rule” was stated for the crime committed. He must pay for the lamb four times.
 - He didn’t ask who, he didn’t how, he didn’t ask why. No mercy given, no mercy received.
 - Do you see yourself in this?

It all starts with losing our focus; then comes the distancing from those that love us; then finally, we see only our self interests and the power of our “Untamed Passions” take us down.

It’s never too late to return to the battle! God loved you before, during, and after your loss of focus. God called you His own before you knew He was God! But to ignore the danger of a passion untamed is deadly!