

MITCHELLE OBATU

SEX
LOVE
PURITY



ON SEX AND SEXUALITY AS GOD DESIGNED IT

FOR EVERY TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT

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This is a beautiful book packed full with illustrations any youth can relate with and lessons every youth can learn from.

~ **Beatrice E. Ogerenyi (PhD), Guidance Counsellor**

This book is simply an iconoclastic piece. Several cherished yet wrong beliefs about sex before marriage which are in direct opposition and defiance to God's word are exposed. The truth is taught in simple, clear and unequivocal terms.

One hot button issue which has been thoroughly dealt with in this book is the norm of 'testing the package before marriage'. Testing the package is wrong. What will determine success in every decision you make, including the choice of a life partner is this,

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Pro 3:5-6).

Testing the package does not guarantee you will have a happy home or a great sex life with your spouse and it's against God's will.

I highly recommend this book for everyone who desires to pursue holiness without which no man can see the Lord.

~ **Pst Stella Kosmi-Ilejojie, Campus Coordinator,**
Rhema Bible Training Centre Kaduna

God's take on Sex, Love and Purity...Not because He wants to cramp our style, but because He loves us!

Mitchelle has done an excellent job sharing God's heart in this book.

She has also brought a practical dimension to it using her experiences, as well as the experiences of others for us to learn from.

It is a must read for teenagers and adults alike. You will surely take away some valuable lessons from it.

~ **Mrs Adebola Oyekola**

Dedication

To every youth and those who love them.
To everyone whose heart yearns to do the Father's will.

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My mom, Ugonwa Pattbob, for her endless prayers. And my siblings, for their undying love and support.

Pst Achumba Nduka. Despite your very busy schedule, you took out precious time to go through my book. Thank you sir. I find discussing with you quite refreshing and your words thoroughly encouraging. God will not forget your labour of love.

Pst Stella Kosmi-Ilegojie, Mrs Adebola Oyekola and Dr

Beatrice Ogerenyi. Thank you all so much for reviewing and endorsing my book. It means a lot to me. God bless you.

Everyone, home and abroad, who have directly or indirectly impacted my life and groomed me to be the person that I am today. Thank you! And yes, I am still growing.

And ultimately, my Father and my God. Your gentle nudging one early morning in January 2019 led me to write this book. I can never say “Thank You” enough. I love You with all of my heart and with all that I am. You made this book happen and I give You all the glory.

Foreword



This write up was thoughtfully put together to correct the abnormalities that the society has created and portrayed of what was originally in the mind of God concerning our sexuality.

This book will deal with sex, love and purity from the concept of the originator's mind set. It is a total educational manual that should be available to every teen and young adult. It is so structured in such a way that anyone who comes in contact with this book will better understand their peculiarities, the tricky curiosity and experimentation faced by youths and a balanced truth that was revealed, built upon the foundation of the Word of God.

In our days, sex is not talked about with purpose, purity and clarity. This explains the abuse in our world. But this book gives precise, pure and very informed answers with practical solutions to age long challenges that will forever help any youth, and even adults, overcome addictions such as pornography, masturbation, fornication, social media addiction, depression, peer pressure and sexual molestation.

Considering the fact that we are in a world where dealing with the opposite sex is a reality, one then should be prepared and a proper guideline on dating and handling sex perfectly enumerated, with a balanced truth of consequent physical effects that may follow once indulgence is not within the boundaries outlined by God.

I have read books written on this subject but this book not only deals with equipping us physically but spiritually as well. Vivid information on how to manage our human spirit as illustrated in the Bible was key, paying attention to Romans 12:1-2 where we are taught how to present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is our reasonable service. Then will we survive the world's pressure by having minds that are renewed so we can prove what is good, acceptable and is the perfect will of God.

I have had the privilege of working with Mrs Michelle Obatu and I have interacted with her in the course of this review. Her spirit is beyond doubt clean and pure, and as a minister in our church, I am proud to associate with her and this work. It is a gift worth more than money; a must read for every teen and adult youth.

My prayer is firstly that God will use this work to straighten the misconceptions, create honest balanced information in dealing with our sexuality and help us live our lives free of regrets.

Pastor Achumba Nduka JC
Pastor, Youth and Children's church,
Family Worship Centre Abuja

Introduction



In case you are wondering, “Am I qualified to read this book?” Yes, you are. Though my main target audience are the youths, anyone can read this book - single or married, because I believe the information contained here will be helpful to all. If you are a teenager, ages 13 to 19, you fall into the youth category.

Who is a youth? The dictionary says it is the period between childhood and adult age. Now there is actually no universal agreement on who a youth is. The UN defines youth as persons between the ages of 15 to 24 years whilst in Nigeria, a youth is a person aged between 18 to 30 years. Some countries say you stop being a youth at age 35. But hey, don't bother about it. If you are aged between 13 to 22 years, this book is specially written for you in the simplest terms. If you are above 22, still single and want to learn more, I recommend you read on. Are you married? Please go very much ahead. We all need to work together to deal with the issue of sexual immorality because this disease cuts across every

strata of the society – children, youths and adults, married or unmarried.

A particular story on *Reddit* by a 30 year old male virgin caught my attention. This young man wrote on how the world sees people like him who are not having sex. He said: “I get a lot of attention from the girls. It wasn’t until I decided to hang out with one of them – one of the girls I knew who had a crush on me. We just had coffee. She starts talking about her past boyfriends and how she’s in her early twenties and has already had a dozen of them. I was nervous, and she asked me how many girlfriends I’ve had. I kept trying to dodge and weave, but it just made her more persistent on asking me. I finally admitted that I’ve never had a girlfriend before and that I’ve never even been kissed before. She thought I was kidding. I wasn’t. When she realized what I am, she suddenly went from being attracted to being disgusted. Coffee ended shortly, and she stopped talking to me since then. Soon, all the girls stopped talking to me. I went from being this guy who got a lot of attention to being a Nobody, like I was dead. I felt it. They treated me like I was this gross human. It’s like I grew this giant tumour on my face overnight that I can’t see but somehow it turns people off.”

Another 24 year old female virgin also shared: “Once you get to a certain age, people will wonder what’s wrong with you if you’re still a virgin. Yes, even if you’re female. A lot of guys think that a girl is going to get super attached if she’s a virgin. Or they assume you’re prudish or super religious.”

Does this ring a bell? Today, there is a lot of social shame around people who choose not to have sex. If you choose to abstain people look at you like you are the one with a problem. “You just can’t be okay,” they say. It’s literally offensive and an abomination to tow the path of abstinence. This demonic scheme is sold to the youths and unfortunately many of them adopt the idea. Pre-marital sex is now a norm, a way of acceptance, a kind of coming of age, a way to belong or to be seen as cool or get popular.

Being a youth is a really tricky period filled with curiosity and experimentation. They have tons of unanswered questions concerning relationships, sex and sexuality. Unfortunately, such ‘taboo’ topics are hardly discussed at home and in most churches. And because our youths lack answers from the people who authoritatively should be the right source of such information, they look for it elsewhere. The internet, the society, their friends and peers sell to them their twisted perspective on love and sex. Having no one to guide them, they buy it. And since their parents and the church are not in touch with them and have no idea what they are secretly battling with, they slowly or quickly lose them to the pressure. Commonly, these youths are afraid to open up to the adults because they are afraid they will be judged or nagged at.

How often parents shun the sex topic. Hardly do they discuss it with their youths because they claim the subject is too ‘dirty’ to be talked about; that it is an ‘adult thing’. Guess what? The devil takes advantage of the youth’s ignorance and pushes them into the very thing their parents/guardians think they are protecting them from!

It's time to do the wise thing - sit down with our youths and talk about sex and everything in-between, taking our perspective from God's Word. We need to throw away this taboo garb and be real and honest with them. The choice to live sexually pure should not be forced or imposed on them, rather they should be taught and guided with love and understanding so we don't push them away from doing what's right. The decision to live sexually pure is ultimately their decision in the long run. I believe that if we were to teach them this truth in love, backing it up with God's Word instead of imposing it on them, they will easily yield because of the love they have encountered through us. Parents or guardians shoving their belief down their youths' throats does not always go down well. Often times such youths become pretentious and rebellious.

If sex should be talked about anywhere it should be in our homes and in the church. If we don't, someone else will do it for us. Youths are battling issues like drug addiction, pornography, masturbation, fornication, social media addiction, depression, peer pressure and sexual molestation. Until we sit down with them and talk to them in love about this matter, they will continue with it like it is normal. In the end, what we would have are messed up youths and a damaged society.

Why did I write this book? I am troubled about how rampant and how normal sexual immorality has become among our youths, in the church and in the society in general. An NGO in Nigeria conducted a research in 2017 and found that about one quarter of Nigerian adolescents are sexually

active and they start having sex from ten to fifteen years of age. Each year the number escalates. Most statistics say that the average age that a child is first exposed to pornography is eleven years old. We can't sit down and turn a blind eye to this immoral wave destroying a great deal of lives and severing our youths from having a thriving relationship with God.

This book *Sex Love Purity* is a bit of a sex education manual. In secular sex education, you have the options to abstain or not to abstain from pre-marital sex. But according to the Word of God, we have only **one** option – to steer clear of sex until marriage. “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: You are to abstain from sexual immorality” (1Thess 4:3). The Word of God will not change for anyone. It is the same yesterday, today and forever. Time has no effect on it so don't say, “Times have changed”.

Secular sex education says if you cannot abstain then you should be informed concerning the implications of sexual intercourse and family planning. It instructs you on how to ‘play safe’ using contraceptives like condoms, pills and so on for birth control. But in this book, I will tell you the best way to ‘play safe’ – by using God's Word. Proverbs 6:23 -24 supports this:

“For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life, to keep you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of the seductress.”

Until youths choose to live by the Word, it will be impossible for them to truly be safe. I realize that no youth would choose to tow the path of sexual purity until Jesus comes

into their hearts. So what I am doing through this book is not just to show them sex from God's perspective, but also hope to plant Jesus in their hearts as they read through. Only then can they really be enabled to live sexually pure. And for those youths who have received Jesus but still struggle with sexual immorality, I hope they find in this book a way to overcome.

“Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the lusts of the flesh.” (Gal 5:16)

Someone said that walking by the Spirit is a conscious action of choosing by faith to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, words or deeds, and I agree. Until we make this choice, we will always give in to the flesh.

I have interacted with several youths, even distributed some questionnaires and it has brought me up to speed on some of the questions they desire to have answers to. Questions on: abstinence and its importance, practical ways on how to stay sexually pure till marriage, whether it is okay to masturbate than to indulge in pre-marital sex, how to overcome sexual temptations and the consequences of pre-marital sex. So I am optimistic that this book will answer the youths' most frequently asked questions on sex and sexuality using personal and practical life experiences. I also wish that it will open their eyes to see sex for what it is, teach them God's divine purpose for sex, how to use this beautiful gift, how not to use it, show them that it is very possible to break away from sexual captivity and live in sexual purity. And yes, I want them to know that God loves them so much no matter

what their story may be and is very willing to change them if they allow Him to.

I believe that after they have gone through this book, every youth will be well equipped with the right information on sex and sexuality as God designed it and resolve in their hearts to do sex the right way. So bring out your mind and your pen, let's get to work. Make sure you underline every sentence that strikes you. Welcome on board.

Mitchelle Obatu



Sex and Love

I am sure some parents will be pretty alarmed by what they may find on their youth's phone or what they have been up to behind their backs. At one time, some parents revealed on social media the kind of discoveries they had made on their children's phones. One parent said the fourteen year old daughter had many pictures of male genitals on her phone. Another said her daughter had many nude photos of herself. A father found that his teenage son's browsing history had a considerable amount of searches related to sexual content or pornographic websites. Another single mother had walked in on her son masturbating leaving the poor woman terrified and confused as to what to do about the awkward situation.

It tells a lot, right? Youths know much more about sex than people assume. I believe they know even more than adults do. Oh, definitely! I remember discussing with a lady who did her National Youth Service programme in a

secondary school in the northern part of Nigeria. She said to me, “These students know so much about sex, even down to their JSS 1. It’s almost abnormal if you are not having sex. It is so rampant, including abortion.” And I thought to myself that this is just one of the countless number of schools, not just in Nigeria but all over the world, faced with this sexual epidemic. Isn’t it disconcerting? Now let’s look at sex from the basics before we progress.

Have you heard about sex? I am sure your answer is yes! Good, so we are on the right track.

What is Sexual Intercourse?

I asked this question and a sixteen year old youth gave me a rather graphic description of what sex is. He said it is when the penis inserts into the vagina, and yes he was right. According to the dictionary, it is sexual contact between individuals involving penetration, especially the insertion of a man’s erect sex organ into a woman’s sex organ, typically culminating in orgasm and ejaculation of semen.

I guess at this point someone may heave a sigh of relief and say, “Wow, thank God I am safe. If that’s what sex means then I have never had sex.” Well, technically yes. But do you know that sexual intercourse is not the only thing you need to abstain from to be sexually pure?

Who Created Sex?

God created sex. It is not some sort of satanic invention.

God created it to be used for the benefit of mankind – for the expansion of the human race through procreation. When God told Adam, “Go into the world, increase and multiply...” that was Him giving Adam the go ahead to procreate. How were they supposed to do that if not through sexual intercourse? Sex is also for pleasure and bonding between a man and his wife.

If this is so, it means that sex is sacred and holy. But unfortunately in our world, sex is treated as something unholy, dirty and disgusting. Someone thought sex was so disgusting that ‘God cannot be in the room where two people are having sex’. Nothing is sinful about sex in itself but like the master manipulator he is, Satan has turned this sacred privilege to his own advantage. What makes sex sinful is how and when it is used. God is sure pleased when sex is used the way He ordained it to be used and He blesses it.

Now if God created sex, does it mean He is in the best position to tell us how to use it? Of course, yes. No one knows the Mercedes car better than the person who invented it. It is the same when it comes to sex. According to God’s Word, sex is not for a boyfriend and a girlfriend, neither is it for two people who are in love. It is also not for a man and a man, a woman and a woman, a man and a dog, etc. It is strictly, by God’s standard, between a man and a woman who are married to each other. In other words, sex is to happen **only** within the confines of marriage.

Is Sex a Sign of True Love?

As a young person, your attraction towards the opposite sex grows. You want to love and be loved. It's very normal and part of our natural human makeup. Possibly you go out of your way to be friends with a boy in your school. Soon enough he starts pressurizing you for sex. Then he employs the usual line, "If you love me, you will prove it by having sex with me," just to get you to sleep with him. But does sex with him really prove that you love him? To the world, yes. But what does God say? God says it does not.

Sex is a proof of your commitment in marriage and the highest form of expressing your love to your spouse. Anyone who cajoles you or emotionally blackmails you to have sex with them so as to prove your love for them either doesn't know any better, because that's what they too have been told and have come to believe or they clearly want to take advantage of you. Run! Having sex with him or her proves nothing. The proof of love under these circumstances is that this person respects your values and your body as not to ask you to do what clearly violates the Word of God. Therefore, God's prescription for sex is that it be enjoyed between a man and his wife. Sex outside this prescription is sin, perverse and clearly an abuse.

Sex Abuse

Tramadol is a drug used to treat moderate to moderately severe pain. In simple English, it is a pain killer. But according

to NAFDAC, it is the most commonly abused drug in Nigeria alongside Codeine. In 2018, BBC released a documentary on the terrible effects of Tramadol drug abuse on the youths in Northern Nigeria. These youths misuse it to serve their personal cravings because it makes them feel relaxed and happy. What they have failed to realize is that abusing the drug causes seizures and loss of co-ordination, even coma. If used the way the doctor prescribed it, tramadol is effective but outside the doctor's prescription, it is dangerous.

Like tramadol, sex is beautiful when used as God requires us to. But what do you think will happen if we don't use sex as God prescribed? Just as there are drastic consequences when you use tramadol wrongly, there are definite repercussions for the misuse of sex. Let this sink in: everything God created is for a reason and until sex is used right, you will not benefit maximally from it.

Stick to the Owner's Manual

In every equipment, for instance a car, a television or a mobile phone, there is always the owner's manual. If the person who built that equipment could put an owner's manual when packaging it that means it is very important, right? The owner's manual is an instructional book that gives the user useful information about the features of that equipment and how best he can use it. If the user does not follow the instructions written in that manual, he is merely compromising the effectiveness of that equipment or will end up damaging it. The owner's manual is always the first thing the user would

refer to once he wants to start using the product or when he is experiencing difficulty while using the product. This is exactly the same way God gave us the owner's manual, His Word, after He created us. This Manual called the Bible tells us how best to operate as God's own creation. If we do anything contrary to this Manual, we are hurting ourselves. Would you not rather do sex the way the Creator stipulated in His Manual and be safe?

Proof that Sex is Only Within the Bounds of Marriage

During the *Be Un-normal* youth series, a program I and my team organized in December 2018, one of the young guests who attended said during our talk show session, "Yes, God created sex but in the garden of Eden He gave man the free will to use sex the way they want to." I was dazed. Really? I wondered what part of the Bible he saw that.

Is there really a place in the Bible where sex is said to be only within the confines of marriage? Oh, sure! All over the Scriptures, God warns us vehemently about engaging in adultery or fornication. Adultery is sex between a married person and another person they are not married to, whilst fornication is when an unmarried person has sex with another person. Ephesians 5:3,5 speaks up against fornication saying, "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints... For this you know, that no fornicator..., has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

God tells us in Hebrews 13:4, “Let marriage be held in honour among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.” And concerning that man who engages in adultery, Proverbs 6:32-33 says, “But a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself. Blows and disgrace are his lot, his shame will never be wiped away.”

Exodus 20:14 instructs, “You shall not commit adultery.” 1Cor 6:18-19 warns us to flee from sexual immorality.

Pro 6:28-29 (Message Bible) puts it in a more explicit way: “Can you walk bare foot on hot coals and not get blisters? It’s the same when you have sex with your neighbour’s wife: Touch her and you will pay for it. No excuses.” In 1 Cor 7:2 Paul says, “Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.”

God would not be warning us in His Word to avoid fornication/adultery or sexual immorality if He had given us the free will to use sex the way we like and have it when we feel like it. He cannot contradict Himself.



Virginity versus Sexual Purity

In one of the online groups I belong, a girl raised a curious question. She wrote, “Please I want to ask: If the head of the penis enters the vagina, could there be a possibility of losing virginity?” This question prompted me to put out a reply I titled *God is not just interested in your virginity*. It went thus:

Who really is a virgin? Is God interested in just your virginity? Is virginity a symbol for sexual purity? I took the liberty to consult my dictionary concerning the meaning of the ‘virgin’ word and it says that a virgin is someone who has never had sexual intercourse. So we can rightfully say one is still a virgin (technically) if she has never had penetrative sex, right? It brings us to the next question: Is virginity a symbol of sexual purity? This is where most of us get it all wrong. Virginity is not always the symbol of sexual purity.

Understand this please so you don't get it all mixed up: Sexual purity is NOT just about being a virgin; it's about a well-rounded purity of your mind as well as your body and spirit. You can be a virgin and not be sexually pure and you can be sexually pure and be a virgin. Some people are more interested in being technical virgins. This means they work so hard at keeping their hymen intact whilst they do other 'sexual things'. They pollute their minds with porn. They masturbate. They 'half-insert' (let me borrow that word) the penis, have oral sex etc and still claim to be virgins because in their definition of sexual purity it's about being a virgin (unbroken hymen) and since they've never had penetrative sex they are still virgins and that makes them sexually pure. Wrong!

Therefore, is God actually interested in your virginity? God is not just interested in your virginity. He is also interested in the purity of your heart. After all, there are still people out there who are 'technical virgins', they've never had penetrative sex but are not born again. A technical virgin is one who has not had actual penetrative sex (meaning her hymen is still intact) but engages in other non-penetrative sexual activities. So let's stop this question about hymens, half-insertions, tip insertions and all. You may have an unbroken hymen, but be sexually impure. See, anybody can be a virgin but it takes someone sold out to Christ to be sexually pure. When you think of sexual purity let it run in two ways: purity of your mind and spirit first, then purity of your body. Sexual purity starts from your mind and your heart. Work hard at having a clean heart and a pure mind. Someone said, "Sexual purity applies to both our actions and our attitudes. It is the

decision to guard your heart and mind by not allowing impure thoughts or attitudes take over.”

New Life Centre defines sexual purity as ‘not even dwelling on thoughts of sex with someone other than a spouse. Until you are married, sexual purity means saying no to sexual intercourse, oral sex, and even sexual touching. It means saying no to a physical relationship that causes you to be “turned on” sexually’. Sexual purity holds not just for the unmarried people but for the married. That’s why it’s beyond being a virgin or having penetrative sex, it’s about choosing to worship God with your body. So stop paying attention to your hymen and start paying attention to the Holy Spirit. Besides, the presence or absence of hymen doesn’t always verify virginity. You know why? There are other ways that the hymen can be broken: through sports, horse riding or a nasty fall. Some women are even born without hymen or they are born with hymen with holes. So, don’t reduce your sexual purity to the presence of the hymen in your private part.

‘Thank God for those who once were sexually active but have decided to save sex for marriage because they have chosen to honour God in their bodies. Honour God in your thoughts. Honour Him in the secret and in the open. He seeks your purity not just your virginity. What am I saying? Sexual purity is NOT just about being a virgin, it’s about honouring God in and with our bodies. And if we must effectively honour God in our bodies, it must start from the heart. Be a virgin but also stay sexually pure.’

Sexual Immorality

Like this young lady whose question I addressed above, some of you may think that until you have had a full-blown penetrative sex, you have done no wrong in God's eyes. Know this, pre-marital sex is not the only sexual sin on the list. Anything that you deliberately do outside the confines of marriage to pleasure or stimulate your body sexually is sexual immorality because it violates your spirit, your mind and body. It could be oral sex, masturbation, pornography, adultery or fornication, bestiality or any form of sexual perversion.

Fornication, as I have earlier described, is sex between two unmarried people. Oral sex is stimulating one's sex organ using the mouth. Masturbation (also called self-sex or solo sex) is when one stimulates oneself sexually. In other words, you are actually having sex with yourself when you masturbate. Even watching pornography is sexually immoral because it fills you with impure thoughts and desires which contaminates your mind and spirit, and soon enough translates to sinful actions. See Eph 5:5.

Britannica describes pornography as representation of sexual behaviour in books, pictures, statues, motion pictures, and other media that is intended to cause sexual excitement. It explains further that the word 'pornography' is derived from the Greek *porni* ("prostitute") and *graphein* ("to write"). It will also amaze you to know that the Greek word for fornication is *porneia*. Do you see the connection? They both have the same root word 'porn'.

Thayer's Greek Lexicon translates *porneia* as illicit sexual intercourse, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc. The Greek word for prostitution is no different from that of fornication and from their root word is the name 'porn' derived. Before God, they are one and the same. So just in case you are wondering where masturbation and pornography are in the Bible, they are all called sexual immorality.

Sexual immorality in some versions of the Bible is also called sexual vice, sexual promiscuity or sexual sin. Someone who has not had penetrative sex but still does everything sexual – masturbates, has oral sex, watches pornography, is still very much in the wrong. Several times in the Bible, God warns us to flee from sexual immorality.

1 Corinthians 6:18 says, "Flee sexual immorality! Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body." Did you notice the exclamation mark after 'flee from sexual immorality'? An exclamation mark is used to express a strong emotion. There is urgency hinted in that singular statement. Paul who wrote this under the influence of the Holy Spirit wants us to take it very seriously.

The next verse went on to say, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...?" That means that when you have pre-marital sex, you are sinning against your body and since your body is the temple where the Holy Spirit dwells, you are actually directly assaulting the temple of the Holy Spirit. This will yield a

gruesome result as seen in 1 Cor 3:16, “If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will **destroy** him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” I checked the dictionary meaning of destroy and it says, ‘end the existence of something (or someone) by damaging it or attacking it; ruin emotionally or spiritually; defeat utterly.’

This is not what God wants for you and that’s why He says, “Flee from sexual sin”. If you were walking along the road and all of a sudden, out of nowhere, some heavily armed bandits appear, will you go ahead to meet them with smiles playing on your face and your arms wide open? Oh no! You will run, right? You will flee! Someone will say in pidgin English, “*Pick race.*” When Paul said flee, he meant that this thing is a matter of life and death; that your life is under threat and that staying there means you will lose your life but if you flee you save it. Sexual sin is always associated with death and destruction. That is how grave it is.

The Youth Who Did not Compromise

One youth that fled from sexual sin was Joseph. If Joseph had chosen to compromise rather than fleeing from having sex with Potiphar’s wife because he thought it was a viable shortcut to escape hardship, he would have lost out on God’s purpose and plan for his life. He would never have become the prime minister of Egypt and his name would be missing in Faith’s Hall of Fame (Heb 11:22). His future would have been jeopardized because of sexual immorality which Proverbs 6:33 calls a ‘brainless act, soul-destroying and

self-destructive'. You have no idea what damage you are doing to your future; to those great plans God has in store for you when you engage in pre-marital sex. I believe the devil planted Potiphar's wife to usurp Joseph's dream and stop him from fulfilling God's purpose for his life. Thank God Joseph understood this and fled. Today, the devil is doing the very same thing to deflect you from the great future ahead of you.

"But my friends are doing it, everybody is doing it, why can't I?" Because you are different! You are saving your life by obeying and staying with God's Word. And just in case you think it's your body and that you can do whatever you want with it, bear this in mind: God didn't create your body for sexual immorality. It was created for the Lord (1 Cor 6:13b).

Things That Can Influence the Misuse of Sex

1. Societal Pressure:

The society puts so much pressure on us to have sex before the right time. Okay, look around you critically. You will hardly watch a movie, or cross a street without something sexual showing up. It could be on the posters, billboards, internet, mass media, social media, movies and blogs, in music, on your *Whatsapp* chats or even in the pop up ads on your mobile phone.

Mass media is doing so well in popularizing and glamorizing sex. In our world, sex sells. It's on this ideology that American celebrity, Kim Kardashian, built her career and millions of people are doing same right now. If you want

to pull more followers, put up naked or sexually suggestive pictures on *Instagram*. A popular Nigerian actress did such and within twenty four hours she gained over thirty thousand followers extra. More followers mean more money. The society puts pressure on you to do what everybody is doing. Sexual immorality is painted as fun and normal, after all that's what happening guys and happening babes do. It is so easy to get caught up in this web if you are not careful. You want to belong by every means possible. You want to feel accepted because people will begin to think you are weird or a 'Jew guy'. Hahaha! Be proudly a Jew guy. As Jews we bow to no man but God (Esther 3:1-5).

And then you hear stories of some Christians (pastors included) who get involved in sexual sin and you wonder to yourself, "If he can, who am I?" The sooner you stop looking at people and start looking at the Word of God for guidance, the better it will be for you and the less pressurized you will become in the midst of this confusion. Jesus is your standard, not your pastor, not anyone. You should only imitate them as long as they imitate Christ also. This race is a personal one. No one will give an account of how you lived it for you. You will do it yourself. Therefore take responsibility and live your life by the Word. Don't succumb to the pressure to have sex.

2. Peer Pressure:

When you look around you and you see that your friends or people who are of the same age with you are already having sex, you may feel pressurized to do the same so you don't

seem left out, immature or become a laughingstock among your peers. That's why it is very important you watch who you listen to, who your friends are and those you surround yourself with. It is said, "Show me your friends and I will tell you the kind of person you are." Your friends have a great deal of influence on you. If all they do is talk about sex, their boyfriends or girlfriends, it won't be long when you give in. So I ask, "Who are your friends?"

3. Pornography:

Statistics show that the average age a child is first exposed to pornography is eleven years old. In the UK, it is reported that primary school children are sexually abused by their own classmates. Primary school! According to police figures in England and Wales, on the average in primary schools alone, three sexual assaults are reported to the police every school day and that one child is raped in every school day. Why? Probably because of their early exposure to pornography. What kind of society will these children build tomorrow? Think, think, think!

The internet is filled with a lot of pornographic materials which is just a click away. So information is very easy to go round these days. The habit of watching porn starts with taking a 'harmless' look at porn but will gradually degenerate into a habit which will push you to not only masturbate but to do the actual thing.

The society is full of sexually deviant people who do not use sex the normal way. They seek more violent, perverse or

life threatening means to derive sexual pleasure. And I believe one of the root causes is their exposure to pornography. Pornography creates a warped image of what sex should be like but it's all make believe and lies. This warped image is called sexual fantasy. A research carried out by Hazelwood and Warren in 1995 indicate that sexual fantasies are an important component of sexual crimes. These sexual fantasies build unrealistic sexual expectations in the viewers. I have read accounts of certain people, including a porn video director and some porn actresses, who clearly stated that porn is purely make believe, exaggerated and unrealistic. These people have inside information because they are in it. An ex-porn star, now a born-again Christian, gave a deeper insight into pornography. She called it demonic. This conclusion is following a spiritual insight God gave her about what goes on spiritually when porn videos are being shot. I won't be able to go into details but I believe you get the message, right?

Apart from the increased rate of sexual violence, porn also objectifies women and children. By objectification of women and children, I mean they are being treated as mere objects of sexual pleasure that have no personality and dignity. Putting it in simpler English, pornography makes the users devalue women and see them as a 'thing' to play with. When they look at a woman, they don't see someone created in God's image who deserves love and respect. What they see is a tool for their sexual enjoyment without putting into consideration the damage and hurt they cause her. Constant exposure to porn makes the user so dependent on pornography that he can't exist without watching it thus causing it

to control every part of his life. I will talk more about this in chapter six.

The truth of the matter is that pornography is negative, destructive and demonic. Beware. If you love your life, stay away from pornography or anything that looks like it. The Bible says you should flee from every appearance of evil (1Thess 5:22). It is also worthy of note that pornography is not only on the internet. It is also in books, magazines, videos, music etc. The battle for your soul is real.

4. Sexual Molestation:

This is when someone is pressurized, forced or tricked into taking part in any kind of sexual activity by an older or more mature person. This mature person could be father, mother, caregivers, house helps, uncles, aunties, cousin, a neighbour etc.

The level of sexual molestation in our world today is alarming and this issue has left many traumatized and scarred for life. It is said that one in nine girls and one in fifty-three boys under the age of eighteen experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult. Sexual molestation usually produces certain results in the victims – either it makes them develop a phobia for sex or it makes them want more and more sex. In some cases, the victims find sexual comfort with people of the same sex because of years of abuse by an opposite sex.

I once came across a particular thread on Twitter where people who had been sexually molested by someone they had

been entrusted to, e.g. a house help or a close relative, came out to tell how it had affected their lives. It's sad to say that a whole lot of sexual abuse is going on in so many homes. These young ones are introduced to sex so early. They pick it up and continue with it into adulthood. Even when they want to stop, they just can't because they seem to be out of control. This is because their body has been conditioned that way. If this is your case, you can still take charge of your life and do the right thing by getting help to break through.

5. Personal Beliefs:

What you see sex as also goes a long way in determining the right use or misuse of it. Until we see sex the way God sees it, we will misuse it. For instance, if you see sex as nothing but just a bodily need that needs to be attended to at any time and with any one, just the way you get to eat when you are hungry, well...you will definitely not be using sex right. If you don't consider sex sacred, you will misuse it. If you see sex as a way to express your love to someone you are not married to, you will misuse it. You get the picture, right?