

SEXUAL INTEGRITY

Balancing Your Passion with Purity



June Hunt



HOPE
for the Heart

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with Purity

JUNE HUNT



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Sexual Integrity: Balancing Your Passion with Purity

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Dear friend,

Never will I forget being stunned by these words—profound words that to this day are seared in my memory:

“Sin will make you stray further than you thought you’d stray.

Sin will make you stay longer than you thought you’d stay.

Sin will make you pay more than you thought you’d pay.”

Oh, how true! Over the years, these words have continued to ring in my ears—especially as I’ve thought about my own life. I remember making choices in my early life that I wish I could remake. And those wrong choices only reinforce the fact of that first refrain, *“Sin will make you stray further than you thought you’d stray.”*

For that matter, every person alive can attest to the truth of these words when they examine their own lives. (And I’m confident that if it were possible to poll the dead, a unanimous “Amen” would ring out from the grave!) Certain great leaders, even spiritual leaders, know the reality of letting down their guard.

When we think of David in the Bible, we are drawn to him—we feel with him. Perhaps it’s because in some ways, we are like him.

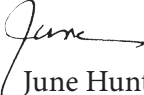
Remember the evening on the rooftop of the palace when King David saw a beautiful woman bathing? At that moment, he had the choice to look away and not give in to lust. Instead, even after discovering that she was married, David opened the door to sexual passion and strayed away from the truth he well knew. He called for her, slept with her, and she conceived.

Undoubtedly, David stayed longer than he thought he'd stay. In order to hide his sexual tryst, David, in essence, had her husband killed on the battlefield. Although David did marry Bathsheba, he certainly learned that sin made him pay more than he thought he'd pay. Six days after the birth of their baby, their little son died. God's hand of blessing was not on David at that point in his life because he failed to be a man of sexual integrity. (See 2 Samuel 11–12:23.)

You have a major decision to make, and no one can make it for you. The question to ask yourself is this: *Am I willing to be a person of sexual integrity?* I beg you to answer yes—for your sake—and then put action steps in place to secure your decision. Repeatedly, throughout your lifetime, you will be faced with this same question, *Am I willing to be a person of sexual integrity?* The steps contained within this book will be of immense help to keep you on track—to keep you from straying.

And if, based on your past, you may have any doubt about being successful, I give you this assurance: *You can be a person of sexual integrity.* When you allow Christ to take control of your life, the Bible says, “*The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it*” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Yours in the Lord's hope,



June Hunt

P.S. Let this be your daily prayer: “*I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.*” (Psalm 119:10)

SEXUAL INTEGRITY

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He had it all! He had the call of God, the anointing of God, the blessing of God, and the power of God—all at his fingertips. He had every opportunity to live an exemplary life—to be a hero throughout the annals of history.

His parents established a positive home environment. They were sure he would be a strong leader—indeed, his extraordinary feats made him famous. But in spite of great ability and great advantage, his moral failure led to his downfall.

Throughout history, this infamous man will be remembered for both his immense strength and his immense weakness.

How different the life of Samson could have been! If only he had withstood the test of sexual integrity—if only he had not succumbed to the lure of sexual seduction—a lure that led to his ultimate destruction. Yet, instead of obedience, he chose disobedience; instead of self-denial, he chose self-indulgence.

**“He [Samson] fell in love with a woman
... whose name was Delilah. The rulers
of the Philistines went to her and said,
‘See if you can lure him into showing you
the secret of his great strength and how
we can overpower him so we may tie
him up and subdue him.’”
(Judges 16:4–5)**





DEFINITIONS

Samson was God's chosen leader to deliver God's chosen people from the oppression of the Philistines. Before his birth, the angel of the Lord had announced to his parents that their son would be a judge over the Israelites, but warned that he should not cut his hair, for if he did, he would lose his strength.

However, instead of living to please his God, Samson lived to please himself. Rather than learning to exercise the discipline of *delayed gratification* (waiting until the right time and the right circumstance to do what is pleasurable), Samson insisted on *instant gratification*. Even in his early manhood, his mother and father appealed to their son.

**“His father and mother replied,
‘Isn’t there an acceptable woman ...
among all our people?
Must you go to the uncircumcised
Philistines to get a wife?’
But Samson said to his father,
‘Get her for me.
She’s the right one for me.’”
(Judges 14:3)**

WHAT IS Sexual Integrity?

We love our heroes. We need heroes in every generation and in every culture: heroes who possess what they profess, who reflect what they represent, who walk their talk, and who survive close scrutiny. True heroes have integrity and are worthy of imitation. We find hope in heroes who are willing to stand alone regardless of stress, who hold to principle no matter the pressure, and who will not compromise their convictions. One aspect of the overall integrity of true heroes is their sexual integrity.

- ▶ **Sexual integrity** is consistently living your life according to the highest moral sexual standards—consistently guarding your mind, will, and emotions from sexual impurity.

“The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.”
(Proverbs 10:9)

- ▶ The word *integrity* means whole, undivided, and void of hypocrisy. Those who have integrity complete their commitments. The Old Testament Hebrew word translated “integrity” is *tom*, which means “to be complete, to finish.”¹

*“Righteousness guards the man of integrity,
but wickedness overthrows the sinner.”*
(Proverbs 13:6)

- ▶ **Sexual integrity** is to be the same in the dark as you are in the light—not double-minded with contradictory thoughts, words, and deeds. The person without integrity ...

“... is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.” (James 1:8)

WHAT IS Sexual Enticement?

A true hunter thinks nothing of sitting camouflaged in the bare branches of a tree battling freezing weather through a wintry night, sometimes enticing his prized game with bait or a “call.” He hunts for the love of the sport and sometimes for the trophy on the wall.

Whether the sexual hunt is for sport or for seduction, this hunter gives great thought to just the right location and the most effective approach. Just as Samson was Delilah’s trophy, you may have been the victim of a sexual hunt—the trophy of someone’s sexual conquest. If so, you know the power and pull of sexual enticement.

- ▶ **Sexual enticement** is an *erotic temptation*, a passionate attraction. By God's design, sexual desire is normal, natural, and good. Although God designed sex, He does not tempt you with sex. The Bible says ...

“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.” (James 1:13)

- ▶ **Sexual enticement** is an *internal temptation* that occurs when something or someone is alluring to you. In the New Testament the Greek word *deleazo* comes from an old hunting and fishing term that means “to lure by a bait” and is translated “to tempt or entice.”²

“Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.” (James 1:14)

- ▶ **Sexual enticement** is an *external temptation* that occurs when someone attempts to lure you. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word *patah* means “to entice, deceive, or persuade.”³ Remember ...

“If sinners entice you, do not give in to them.” (Proverbs 1:10)

QUESTION: “Is sexual temptation a sin?”

ANSWER: No. Temptation is not a sin, but to yield to temptation is a sin. We are all tempted in different areas. The issue is whether we give in to temptation or not. Only one person on earth experienced temptation in every area, yet was without sin—Jesus, our Savior.

**“We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.”
(Hebrews 4:15)**

Biblical Examples of Sexual Enticement

► Flirtation

Salome danced enticingly for Herod.

Read Matthew chapter 14.

► Seduction

Potiphar’s wife sought to seduce Joseph.

Read Genesis chapter 39.

► Lust

Samson lusted after Delilah.

Read Judges chapter 16.