

## ***The “3 Rs Concept” for Christian Living***



### **Remember Your Reputation During a Tempting Relationship**

**When we think of a “tempting relationship”...what comes into our minds?**

Sexual or flirtatious encounters, putting one’s self in a place or time scheme when the opposite sex is around (parties, office closeness/meetings), week-end get-to-gathers with couples who love the party life. Swimming, fishing, bowling, vacationing “buddies.”

Agreeing to “fudge” on reports to help your boss/company look good (and in turn, you get promotions or “atta boys”/commendations.

**Reputation is a big thing to all of us.**

***It's important to know the reason why it matters in one sense, and the reason why it also shouldn't matter to us in another.***

Don't throw rocks at me because of this statement...Let me explain.

**The Bible says that our reputation is far more important than gold or silver.** Proverbs 22:1 says, "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches; Loving favor rather than silver and gold."

**Yet despite that, the Bible also says that we must not value our reputation so much that it might hinder us from honoring God.**

**Why and When Our Reputation Matters**

- *1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 tells us: "Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others."*

***We are instructed to live honorable lives worthy of respect, which means a good reputation.***

- 1 Timothy 3:7 says, "Moreover [an elder] must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

***Note: The reputation became a "testimony" to others.  
Reputation = Testimony***

- **It is with the intention of protecting our testimony that we should be concerned about our reputation.** Many of us want to have a good reputation so that we'd be deserving of people's favor. However, we should not chase/follow after that reasoning. Instead, we must take care of our testimony as God's children.
- **Revelation 12:11a tells us just how important our testimony is: "And they overcame [the accuser of the brethren] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony ..."**

***Our testimony is part of our arsenal against the devil's accusations!***

- ***Our Family, Friends, and Our God Depend on Our Living Testimony.***

## **When Our Reputation Shouldn't Matter**

- ***Reputation and a good name is important, but if what we are after is just to have a good name before all men, we might end up becoming people-pleasers who want a perfect reputation, but with no impact for the Kingdom of God.***
- ***Be careful not to love the people's praises and adoration more than the love of pleasing your heavenly Father.***

James 4:4 reminds us, "*You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.*"

- ***We must be like Christ, who did not consider His reputation important as compared to the will of God.*** Philippians 2:5-6 tells us that "*Though [Jesus] was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.*"

Christ took care of His testimony and didn't sin before God, yet He did not consider it more important than the will of God. He was labeled the "Friend of sinners," yet He didn't mind. ***Jesus simply was focused on doing what God wanted Him to do.***

## ***Handling Sexual Temptation:***

***#1. Remember your reputation will follow you to your grave.***

***Please Handle Your Life Carefully!!***

***If Sexual Temptation is a problem:***

- ***Get help.***
- ***Call on God to intervene.***
- ***Fall on your knees and repent! (Turn and stay turned around!)***
- ***Find a Mentor who you can trust (Have an accountability friend!)***

**Here are 10 ways to battle sexual temptation.**

### **1. Avoid Tempting Situations**

Winning early means staying away from traps. The last thing you want to do is find yourself alone with the object of your unhealthy desires, whether it is images or actual people.

### **2. Consider the Consequences**

While pondering the object of your desire, also ponder the consequences of this action. Is it going to help or hurt your marriage...your family...your world...and your God?

### **3. Avoid Pornography**

Besides the obvious reasons that avoiding porn will help guard against lust, there are psychological reasons as well. Porn creates unrealistic expectations and desensitizes one's mind towards his or her spouse.

### **4. Use Social Media with Caution**

There are many benefits of social media, but there are just as many pitfalls. We are reunited with people from our past and introduced to those who are new. Old sparks can be renewed or new ones can be lit. Always remain alert to true intentions when using social media.

## **5. Question Your Intent**

In being with others of the opposite sex, is the goal or reason for being with them necessary and appropriate. Make sure the motives for the meeting are pure and wholesome. Don't let your mind wander off course.

## **6. Practice Sexual Intimacy**

While there is no way to go back to how you felt when your relationship was new, there are certainly plenty of ways to regain that level of relational excitement. Improving communication, date nights, passionate kissing and thoughtful gestures are just a few examples.

When our minds and hearts are occupied in the right place, sexual lust has little room to operate.

## **7. Consistent Prayer**

Prayer is the act of communicating your thoughts, worries, hopes and dreams to God. Lift up the desires you are feeling and ask for help. God made you and knows you and can deliver you time and time again.

## **8. Choose Your Friends Wisely**

When battling sexual temptation, there are plenty of people we can find that will encourage and enable it. You can still be their friend, but by all means, avoid joining them in their poor relational choices.

## **9. Keep High Standards**

To be a gentleman and a real lady is a choice. Despite the vast amount of temptations that life throws our way, we should hold ourselves to the highest of moral standards. Self-discipline in all areas of our life leads to positive results.

## **10. Redirect Your Passion**

Rather than being controlled by untamed lust, direct that passion in positive directions. Use that energy to brainstorm about ways you can bless your spouse.

*Proverbs 22:3-4, "When you see trouble coming, don't be stupid and walk right into it—be smart and hide. Respect and serve the Lord! Your reward will be wealth, a long life, and honor." (Contemporary English Version.)*