

DP: How did your private world affect your relationships with your wife, children, and other family members?

BOB: I kept it secret. I don't think my children know about my struggles. Fortunately, God preserved me, so I didn't make my daughter in any way a sex object. I saw her as my daughter and respected her as that. As she grew up, I hated the thought of men doing to her what I did to other women, and I tried to protect her and inform her so she wouldn't be naive. It was the preservation of God that I never made her one of my objects of lust.

Without question, the influence of pornography sent powerful shock waves through my relationship to my wife. From early on I sinned by trying to improve her body, trying to get her to look more like Playmates. I realize that I was foolish and sinful; it was an attempt to feed those inner desires for the perfect body type. I think an even more serious sin was that often in making love to her, I'd use her as a launching pad for mental sexual adventures. Even today, having broken with indulgence in fantasy, I still occasionally have to fight off visual imagery. A little clip of a pornographic film will pop into my mind suddenly. Right in the moment I have to ask Jesus to help me get rid of it and love my wife for who she really is. So I do a lot of praying now.

DP: Did sexual immorality play out when you were in church?

BOB: Yes. Oftentimes I'd go to church and my eyes would sweep over the "singles row" or various women in the church who had become part of my fantasy. It was a way of, as it were, checking on my harem. I'd either invent new fantasies or just keep that fire hot in my soul by looking at them, gathering whatever I saw to use later on. Oftentimes the worship service was not a time for me to worship God, but my own lusts. Yet I'm thankful that usually I was at least battling against my sin. God helped me expose my sin to myself. I could see what was going on, and I would ask God to help me. He certainly did many times. But other times I did not ask him, and the church service became a time to fuel the fire inside, to feed the dragon of my soul.

DP: What has changed you over the past year, both in actual behavior and in fantasy? What's different and why?

BOB: Last year I'd been involved teaching a small group Bible study of men and women. We had talked in general about struggles and besetting sins. I had in a general way expressed my concerns about my own soul in the area of lust. Then in God's providence something remarkable happened. One of the younger mar-

ried men in the group came to me and mentioned that he was on the verge of committing adultery. We got together later to talk at length. In a nutshell, he was willing to trash his marriage and his relationship with God for the sake of lust. I could identify, because on so many occasions I had seduced women in my mind. But this was not fantasy. This was real life. The person sitting across from me was actually about to commit adultery.

I was devastated because I identified with the sexual predator I saw in front of me. I realized we were well past the point where I could simply say to him, "Well, you know adultery is wrong and so forth. It's what the Bible says. . . ." I had to portray what it meant to be a sexual predator. This was not an academic explanation. I used a sort of shock therapy to show him what was going on in his mind. I got explicit. And finally I shocked him, and he suddenly recoiled from the prospect of committing adultery.

After that conversation he sought help from our pastor, and his marriage is on the mend. But I really think that *I* was the subject of that particular episode. God was dealing with me. God used me to help that man see what he was doing, but God was saying to me, "For years you thought of adultery and pornography as pleasurable, and you could enjoy it

and entertain it in your heart. If you think it's so funny, then keep this man you've known for ten years from committing adultery and destroying his family." What was so devastating was that I had to reveal myself to save him. I had to hold myself out to public inspection. I think God was saying, "You can't serve two masters. You can't serve me and your sexual idolatry. You can't have both." Then in his electing love and good will, he made sure that I chose him.

DP: What helped you at that point when your choice came to a head? You've described the situation that God arranged, but what made it a decisive turning point? What truth mattered?

BOB: I think it was a deep awareness that God loved me, that Jesus had died for a sinful person. That was combined with the deep awareness that I was involved in a terrible sin. I was on an express train that was gaining speed on a collision course for a real tragedy. Jesus had loved me and would help me.

DP: What did you do in relationship to God?

BOB: I did a lot of praying and repenting. I asked for help and counsel and accountability. I needed protection from any temptation to in-