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Hope For Wholeness Network Affiliate Ministry



Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. Phil. 4:8*

[Sexual Purity](#)

Please allow me to repeat this piece from two-and-a-half years ago. The topic is timeless.

If you are a breathing born-again individual reading this Newsletter, then Paul's words above are for you and about you. Each one of us is subject to temptations with lust and sexual purity challenges. Some very little; some more than others; for many, you feel you probably experience more than your share; and for another segment, your share and maybe a share of other peoples', too, would be your norm.

Many persons, even some who identify themselves as Christians, devise a standard for themselves as to what will constitute sexual purity in their own lives, and then strive to live up to that standard. Some set the bar so low, there's really not much to live **up** to. Only having sex with someone they really care about, rather than engaging in a friends-with-benefits situation, a casual hook-up, or a one night stand, may be one's idea of purity. Or for the married individual, refraining from having any kind of sexual liaison with someone other than your spouse is all that gets required.

And then, there's the "M" word. (Now I'm meddling!) Masturbation is a topic that is so divisive, many just avoid talking about it altogether. I have heard it fervently defended among believers as being a natural and God-given practice (to avoid the pitfall of fornication, as one example), and I have heard it flatly condemned among believers as a tool that our enemy uses to perpetuate lust in the life of an otherwise godly individual. And don't even get me started on masturbation's companion, pornography. With the thousands upon thousands of internet opportunities for viewing all manner of pornography, you can indulge in just about any perversion you want.

There are many, many other examples I could cite of what we allow ourselves to believe concerning sexual purity. The list is quite extensive. The problem with those examples is that

they are me-established, me-focused, me-serving, and me-authorized. These are not based on Father's relational and Biblical standards; they are based on what I can live with and what will not inconvenience me too awfully much. But one of the worst things about these self-pronounced boundaries is that it misses the whole point of establishing sexual purity in one's life. These all deal with behaviors, but God is after our minds.

If we are going to live sexually pure lives in Christ, we must begin to rein/reign ourselves in long enough before we get to the "activity" stage. This month's meditation verse in Philippians above tells us how best to use our minds. Jesus taught that looking on someone to lust after them already produced an adulterous act in the heart. In James' epistle, he details how temptation is initiated and where lust and sin take place when he writes, "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sine; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren." 1:14-16 In these verses, we can see that the battle begins in our minds and our thoughts, not our actions. If we think the sin has occurred only when we act on a thought, we've missed God's will and highest for us. We don't always get to choose what thoughts enter our minds, but we certainly get, and have the responsibility, to choose what we allow our minds to think on, and in what direction we allow our thoughts to go.

Any sexual or impure thought that shows up in our minds, whether unintentional (we are caught by surprise, ambushed) or intentional (we entertain, welcome), has the potential for us to turn it into lust. We have that choice each and every time. Something that has worked for me over the last several years to deal with these kinds of thoughts when they present themselves to my mind has been to make a declaration out loud using Paul's 2 Cor. 10:5. He is talking about our battle not being primarily one of the flesh, but in spiritual warfare. "We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." Impure, lustful, unhealthy sexual thoughts are those which our enemy would love for us to raise up against our knowledge of God and what He desires for His children. So, when these thoughts come to me, my practice is that I immediately declare verbally out loud that I am taking that thought captive to the obedience of Jesus to line up with what I know His will for me to be, and I add that that thought is not part of my inheritance in Him. This practice has helped me tremendously in dealing with impure thoughts, overcoming sexual temptations, and keeping my mind free of garbage from the devil. As a side note, I found it to be so successful with sexual thoughts, I began employing this practice to deal with other ungodly thought I face throughout my day.

If we as believers can get ahold of the fact that the battle is truly in our minds, and that's where we must engage in the initial, and sometimes, strongest warfare, we will see our lives transformed. Our minds are renewed by the Word; we must use Scripture as the sword that it is to our advantage in our warfare. As our thoughts go, so go our words; as our words go, so follow our actions. We will either glorify God or serve our own flesh.

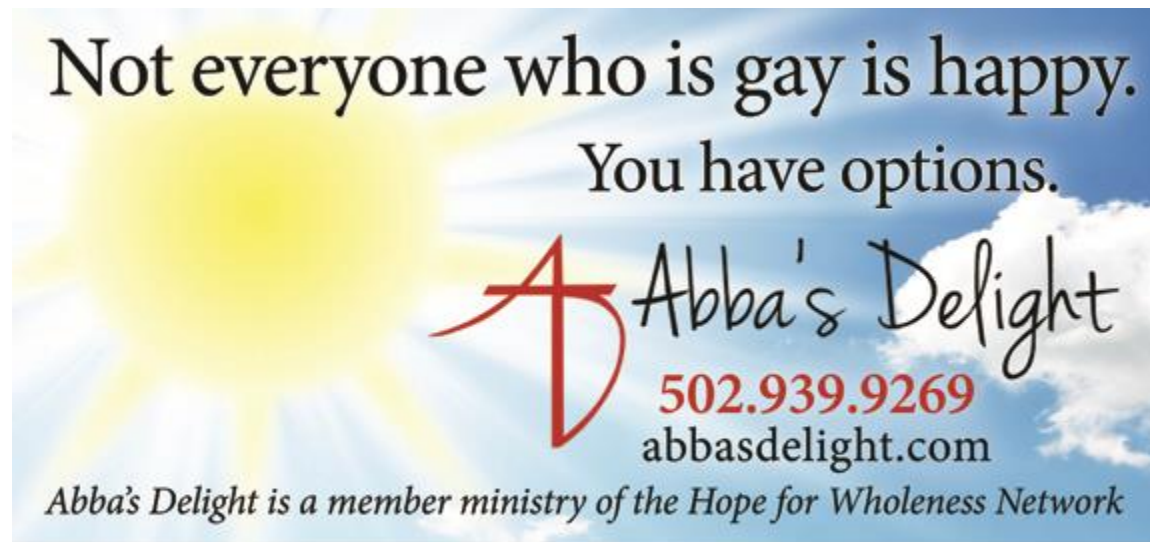
Another effective tool we have in finding and maintaining sexual purity is learning to freely communicate our thoughts, struggles, temptations and sins with one another; the optimum time being as soon as they first hit our minds. When we choose to share, when these matters are brought into the light with someone we love and trust, they no longer have the

power over us that they can have when they are ammunition for Satan to use isolated only in our minds.

I alone have the ability to choose what I allow my mind to dwell on, as do you. May we always choose what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent and worthy of praise!

[The Business of Billboards](#)

Thanks to the generosity of two specific donors, in response to our desire we mentioned in last month's newsletter to obtain space on a billboard here in Louisville, we have secured space for a 90 day period (give or take) beginning on or about Monday, February 3rd, at the corner of Bardstown Rd. and Grinstead Dr. There is a 5 day grace period for the below copy's appearance based on the weather conditions mostly, so hopefully it will appear at the front end.



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[Responses From You](#)

From a Brother in Louisville: Thanks for the Newsletter and all you do!

If something in our newsletter touches your heart, or challenges your theology, or blesses you in any way, please take a moment to email back and share your thoughts with us.

[Upcoming Ministry Meetings](#)

Overcomers Group: Thursday, Jan 30, 2014; Thursday, Feb 13, 2014; Thursday, Feb 27, 2014

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, Feb 4, 2014; Tuesday, Feb 18, 2014

[Ongoing Prayer Requests](#)

Father has been answering our prayers for new participants in our Overcomers Group. Three new participants (with the possibility of a fourth) have been added so far during this last quarter of 2013. Please continue to pray for Father to bring in everyone He desires for Abba's Delight to reach. Please continue to pray also for our Family & Friends group to grow as well, that people who have loved ones who are gay-identified will press through the shame they carry to find help and healing.

Please pray for continued financial support for Abba's Delight. Donations from individuals, churches' missionary fund giving, businesses, and organizations are all welcomed and needed (both one-time and monthly commitments) to continue providing ministry to those in crisis. And your gifts are tax-deductible with Abba's Delight's 501(c)3 status. A huge **Thank You** to all who contributed during 2013! We had some amazing end-of-year contributions, for which we are so truly thankful. Your tax-deductible gifts make a great impact on our ability do ministry as Father is leading us. If you would like to being 2014 contributing monthly to Abba's Delight or send a one-time gift, either you can mail a check to our P O Box shown at the top of the newsletter, or you can go online to our website and contribute electronically at www.abbasdelight.com. Thank you again for your generosity!

If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight Ministry Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you do wish to continue to receive it, please be certain to put our email address in your address book, so that this mailing does not go to your spam, and report to your carrier. Thank you.

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25