

# DISCIPLINE FOR GODLINESS

## DISCIPLINE OF PURITY

### LESSONS FROM A FALLEN KING

Where are we to turn for help? The most instructive example in all of God's Word is the experience of King David as it is told in [2 Samuel 11](#).

#### *Life at the Top*

As the account begins, David is at the summit of his brilliant career — as high as any man in Biblical history. From childhood he had been a passionate lover of God and possessed of an immense integrity of soul, as attested by Samuel's words when he anointed him as king: **“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart”** ([1 Samuel 16:7](#)). God liked what He saw. God liked David's heart!

His was a brave heart, as was evidenced when he met Goliath and returned the giant's fearsome rhetoric with some spine-tingling words of his own — then charged full-speed into battle, nailing Goliath right between the headlights ([1 Samuel 17:45–49](#)).

David had an archetypal sanguine personality brimming with joy, enthusiasm, and confidence and overflowing with irresistible charisma. He was the poet — the sweet Psalmist of Israel — so in touch with God and himself that his Psalms pluck the heartstrings of man even today. Under his leadership all Israel had been united. David hardly seemed a candidate for moral disaster. But the king was vulnerable, for there were definite flaws in his conduct which left him open to tragedy.

#### *Desensitization*

[Second Samuel 5](#), which records David's initial assumption of power in Jerusalem, mentions almost as an aside that **“after he left Hebron, David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem”** ([v. 13](#)). We must note, and note well, that David's taking additional wives was *sin*! [Deuteronomy 17](#), which set down the standards for Hebrew kings, commanded that they refrain from three things: **1)** acquiring many horses, **2)** taking many wives, and **3)** accumulating much silver and gold ([cf. vv. 14–17](#)). David did fine on one and three, but he completely failed on number two by willfully collecting a considerable harem.

**Bible Study: Discipline for Godliness**

**Discipleship Series:**

**Pastor Eddie Idefonso**

We must understand that a **progressive desensitization to sin** and a **consequent inner descent from holiness** had taken root in David's life. David's collection of wives, though it was "**legal**" and not considered adultery in the culture of the day, was nevertheless sin. King David's sensual indulgence desensitized him to God's holy call in his life, as well as to the danger and consequences of falling. In short, David's embrace of socially permitted sensuality desensitized him to God's call and made him easy prey for the fatal sin of his life.

Men, it is the "**legal**" sensualities, the culturally acceptable indulgences, which will take us down. The long hours of indiscriminate TV watching, which is not only culturally cachet but is expected of the American male, is a massive culprit of desensitization. The expected male talk — double entendre, coarse humor, laughter at things which ought to make us blush — is another deadly agent. Acceptable sensualities have insidiously softened Christian men, as statistics well attest. A man who succumbs to desensitization of the "**legal**" sensualities is primed for a fall.