

WHEN ENOUGH IS NEVER ENOUGH⁵

In the first chapter we read Ephesians 5:3, which says, "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed."

But why is God's standard so high? How can God demand not even a hint of lust when He knows that He made us with strong sex drives?

One of the reasons God calls us to cleanse our lives of lust completely is because He knows that lust never stays at the level of "just a hint."

Lust is always an unholy desire for the forbidden. But though lust longs for an object or a person, ultimately this object is not its prize; its goal is the very *act* of desiring. The result is that lust can never be quenched. As soon as the object of lust is attained, lust wants something more.

In Ephesians 4:19, Paul describes this endless cycle of lust. He speaks about those who have turned away from God and says, "Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more."

That's the payoff of lust—"a continual lust for more."

Even when you indulge in *every* kind of impurity, you're still filled with a continual lust. You won't be able to fantasize enough to quench lust. You won't be able to sleep with enough people. You won't be able to view enough pornography. You can gorge yourself on lust, but you're always going to be hungry. You'll be trapped in a never ending pursuit of wrong desires—always reaching for something that cannot be grasped.

God says "*not ... even a hint*" because you can't give in to lust's demands and hope to pacify it. It always grows. And as it does, lust will rob you of your ability to enjoy true, godly pleasure. You can't bargain with lust and come out a winner.

EMBRACING YOUR SEXUALITY⁸

As you read the coming chapters, keep this radical but liberating idea in mind: God *wants* you to embrace your sexuality. And battling lust is part of how you do that.

Does the idea of embracing sexuality