Be Holy, for I Am Holy

God’s Holy People Guard Their Minds Against Defilement
The Mind

- Jesus pointed to the heart. Matt. 15:18, 19
- With all diligence/vigilance. Prov. 4:23
- The body won’t become a holy sacrifice unless the mind is renewed. Rom. 12:1, 2
- Every thought. 2 Cor. 10:3–5
- Know what is right and be committed to it.
- Keep the filth out. Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3–5
Pornography

- Pictures, images, etc. of nudity (or semi-nudity) and depictions of sexual acts designed to create or heighten sexual excitement.
- Explicit romance novels may not be classified as porn, but have same purpose/effect.
- It is pervasive in our society.
Effects of Pornography

- Encourages sexual relations earlier.
- Diminishes trust between couples.
- Can cause feelings of insecurity or unattractiveness in wives.
- Negatively impacts marital intimacy and satisfaction.
- Infidelity.
- Increases the appetite for more graphic things.
Effects of Pornography: A Biblical Perspective

- Likelihood of fornication and/or adultery increased. Heb. 13:4
- Marital love is destroyed. 1 Pet. 3; Eph. 5
- Marriage is not satisfying and blissful. Proverbs 5:15–20
- Lessens one’s abhorrence to sin. 1 Cor. 6:9–10
Pornography Is Sinful

- Consider its intent. Matt. 5:27–28
- Being transformed into His image? 2 Cor. 3:18
- Fleshly members put to death? Col. 3:5, 6
- Filthiness of the lowest degree. Eph. 5:3–5
- No provision for the flesh. Rom. 13:13, 14
Pornography

- Don’t view it.
- Repent if you have.
- If “addicted”...
  - Pray. Matt. 26:41
  - Seek the prayers of others. James 5:16
  - Think about the consequences. Cf. Prov. 6.
  - Focus on better things. Phil. 4:8
  - Avoid the “triggers.” Prov. 7:6–9
  - Don’t give the devil an opportunity. Matt. 6:13
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Television, Movies, Books

- Sin is often depicted as normal, common-place, and harmless.
- Be honest about the shows you watch.
- What about the movies, books, etc.?
- Does it impact us? 1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 4:23
- Could our resistance be weakening?
- Is it appropriate? Phil. 4:8
Conclusion

- The call to purity of behavior is a call to purity of thought.
- God will cleanse you. 1 Cor. 6:9–11; Acts 2:38
- Christians can be clean again. 1 John 1:7–2:2
- Won’t you do whatever needs to be done.