

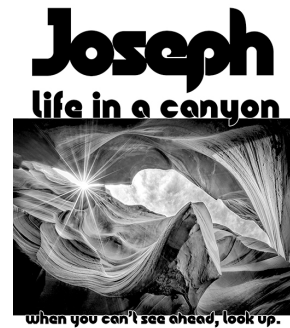
### 3. The Hardest Temptation of All

The hardest temptation is *the temptation to despair* when you've resisted all other temptations and your life still goes bad.

The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. Genesis 39:2

So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. <sup>23</sup> The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. Genesis 39:22,23

Sierra Community Church  
September 27, 2015 Dan Wilvers Part 2



### How Power, Sex, and Circumstances Test You Genesis 39

#### 1. The Temptation of Power

##### 2 Examples:

- **Potiphar's Wife**

"Come to bed with me!" <sup>8</sup> But he refused.

... <sup>10</sup> And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. ... <sup>12</sup> She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" Genesis 39,8,10,12

- **Joseph**

<sup>9</sup> No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9

**Joseph took up power, but he was not taken up with power.**  
The practical difference between these two is how they use power

**St. Augustine's Book "The City of God"**

## 2. The Temptation of Sex

When she says, *“Come to bed with me. Let’s have sex,”* Joseph says, *“No.”* *“Having sex with you,”* he said, *“would be a wicked thing and a sin against God.”*

**Why? Biblically speaking,** it’s not just wrong *because she’s married to somebody else, but note because she’s not married to Joseph.*

### **Paul’s wisdom about our sexual purpose:**

“Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, ‘The two will become one flesh.’ ... Run from sexual immorality.” ..You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 6:16,19,20

What’s interesting here is he’s not talking about adultery per se. He’s talking about two people who are not married to one another or anybody else, *and sex is still wrong.*

“When Paul quotes Genesis 2:24, here in 1 Corinthians 6 *‘The two shall become one flesh,’* instead of devaluing sex, he’s doing the very opposite. He’s elevating sex to a very high place.

**Paul is saying:**

***“You must only give yourself to the one to whom you completely belong.”***

When the **Bible talks about sexual integrity,** it’s saying, **“Integrate your body with the rest of your life.** If you haven’t given your whole life, don’t give your body. Don’t split these things out.”

**Sex is God’s invention for complete life entrustment.**

**Here’s how self-control works, of any kind, but sexual too.**

Genesis 29:20. “So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him ...”

**Real self-control** does not come from *suppressing the desires* of the heart by the will but by reordering the desires of the heart through a one overarching desire that puts all the other desires in their place. Joseph did that, because God was what mattered.