

MALES FIND THE “STRAIGHT” LIFE DULL AND BORING

Dr. James Dobson summed up the “straight” life well in his book *Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives*:

The straight life for a working man...is pulling your tired frame out of bed, five days a week, fifty weeks out of the year. It is earning a two-week vacation in August, and choosing a trip that will please the kids. The straight life is spending your money wisely when you'd rather indulge in a new whatever; it is taking your son bike riding on Saturday when you want so badly to watch the baseball game; it is cleaning out the garage on your day off after working sixty hours the prior week. The straight life is coping with head colds and engine tune-ups and crab grass and income-tax forms; it is taking your family to church on Sunday when you've heard every idea the minister has to offer; it is giving a portion of your income to God's work when you already wonder how ends will meet.

To all this, most men's gut-level response is, “Get me outta here!”

While our natural rebelliousness provides the *arrogance* necessary to stop short of God's standards, our natural dislike of the straight life gives us the *desire* to stop short and to instead experience the temporary pleasures of sin. Our mixed standards provide a relief from our dulling responsibilities.

MALES HAVE A STRONG, REGULAR SEX DRIVE

The human male, because of sperm production and other factors, naturally desires sexual release about every forty-eight to seventy-two hours. (Upon

hearing this, one young wife blurted out, “Oh, what a cross to bear!”) Many women, who especially in early married life rarely have a matching level of desire, stand in amazement at how regularly their husbands desire sexual intercourse. But that’s the way we are. If you’re fortunate, your wife has developed a similar desire out of love for you (or out of pity!).

Dr. Dobson told a story about a young couple on a water ski trip. The husband, a neophyte on skis, thrashed about the bay for much of the afternoon as he struggled to stand. Gamely he tried and tried again, but he spent more time *in* the water than on it.

The effort was obviously exhausting our sunburned hero. Meanwhile, his wife turned to a friend and said, “Would you believe he’ll still want it when we get home tonight?”

How does this seventy-two-hour cycle impact sexual purity of the eyes and mind? Watch yourself over the next couple of weeks. You have sex on Sunday night. Monday morning you drive to work and, without much reaction, notice a new billboard with a foxy babe. But on your morning drive three sexless days later, seeing that babe gets your “motor” running, and she remains on your mind for miles. Later that day she occupies your thoughts during boring work meetings.

“If I’m going to be out all week on business,” Rob told us, “Sue and I usually have sex on Sunday night. She’s pretty good at helping out that way, and I need the help. On Monday night when I’m on the road, I have dinner, do a little work, catch CNN, and go to bed. I may think about sex, but it’s no big deal. By Wednesday night, however, I’m not the same man. I practically feel possessed! The temptations are horrible, and they seem to rise in intensity each night.”

The temptations may or may not intensify, but your sensitivity to them surely does. By the third day of the cycle, these temptations can seem cavernous.

Your body isn't reliable for *any* spiritual battle, much less the battle for sexual purity and obedience. We easily identify with Paul:

When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am!
(Romans 7:21-24)

Your body often breaks ranks, engaging in battle against you. This traitorous tendency pushes our sexual drive to ignore God's standards. When this sexual drive combines with our natural male arrogance and our natural male desire to drift from the straight life, we're primed and fueled for sexual captivity.

The means of ignition, meanwhile, comes from the fourth of our natural male tendencies—and the most deadly.