

**Avoiding a Fatal Fall
Selected Scripture
August 6, 2014**

Introduction:

A 2010 survey by The Barna Group asked adults which, if any, of eight behaviors with moral overtones they had engaged in during the past week. The behaviors included looking at pornography, using profanity, gambling, gossiping, engaging in sex outside of marriage, retaliating against someone, getting drunk, and lying.

Of those surveyed:

- Twenty-eight percent had used profanity.
- Twenty percent had gambled.
- Nineteen percent had viewed pornography.
- Twelve percent had gossiped.
- Twelve percent had gotten drunk.
- Eleven percent had lied.
- Nine percent had engaged in sex outside of marriage.
- Eight percent had retaliated against someone.

Real Truth Magazine:

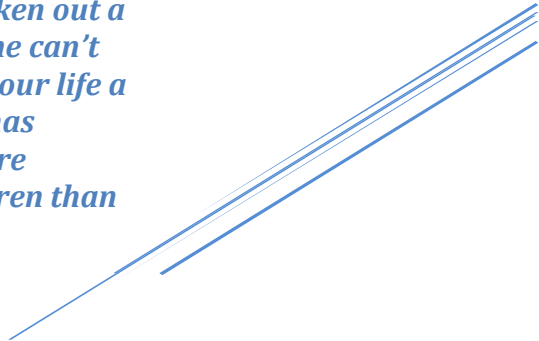
It should come as no surprise, since society places so much "value" on sex. Before marriage, the average person has had up to five sexual partners. Sex is no longer a mysterious and exciting aspect of marriage. What should be one of the most powerful expressions of love has been reduced to something as "special" as sharing a bank account or buying a car. Therefore, it is no surprise that something so under-valued is so easily marred. This framework and its examples have created what has been called the most sexually active generation the world has ever seen.

Erwin Lutzer:

"No matter how many pleasures Satan offers you, his ultimate intention is to ruin you. Your destruction is his highest priority."

"If you are a Christian, you are a targeted man, a marked woman. The forces of evil have taken out a contract on you. Satan's out to get you. If he can't take you to hell, he'll do his best to make your life a hell on earth. Temptation and sexual sin has destroyed more marriages, broken up more churches, broken the hearts of more children than any other sin known to man."

Randy Alcorn



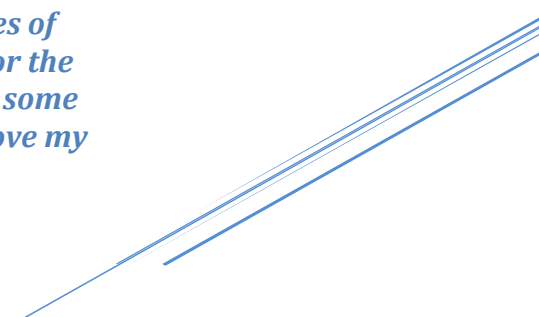
If you assume you'll never be burglarized, you'll leave the windows open, and credit cards and cash lying on the dresser. If you think you'll never fall morally, you'll live carelessly, failing to take precautions.

Five ways to escape and avoid fatal falls:

- 1. Make it a priority to keep God's marital standards. (Psalm 119:9 ESV)**
- 2. Maintain a strong marriage. (Proverbs 5:18-23 ESV)**
- 3. Manage your mind. (Luke 12:2-3)**

"Antibiotics can prevent or cure some venereal diseases. Contraceptives reduce the chances of pregnancy. But there is no contraceptive for the conscience. Medical science may eliminate some consequences of my sin. But it cannot remove my accountability to God."

Randy Alcorn



- 4. Minimize the opportunity for temptation. (Matthew 26:41)**

Jesus gives two keys of prevention:

- Watch**
 - Pray**
- 5. Magnify the consequences of adultery and fornication.**

It doesn't matter where your feet have been, it matters more which direction they are pointed in right now.
