

**(CA2) EMAPW 10 – Pornography: The Flee Principle****Theme music**

**FOSTER:** Mike was sitting at his work desk when the daily routine started. The secretary for the group came into his office and asked the same question, “hey handsome, when are you going to take me to lunch?” Lunch was the last thing on her mind. Like the day before and the day before that, Mike said, “Never. I am happily married with two beautiful daughters.” “I know,” she said as she left slowly enough for Mike to notice every curve. Mike had a long history of using pornography and was always tempted by her. One day she began the daily ritual, only this time words came out of Mike’s mouth he never expected. What were those words?

Welcome to Champions Arise. I’m Foster Braun and I’m with Kent Darcie. We are in a series with the subject of men and pornography. Today we’ll look at the value of fleeing—running from evil.

I want to alert parents that we will be talking about sexual issues. Though we won’t speak in a graphic way, this conversation will not be appropriate for children. With that said, we hope you’ll stay with us as we find out what happened to Mike when we return to Champions Arise.

***Music Theme in***

**FOSTER:** Kent, this has been a very informative and helpful series. I expect today’s topic to be just as interesting.

**KENT:** I agree. However, running away seems to be the opposite what men are taught. Yet when it comes to sexual temptation, it’s exactly what we need to do. Which makes me wonder, what happened to Mike you talked about at the beginning?

**FOSTER:** As I said, the secretary would ask Mike every day to go out to lunch. And every day he said no, until the day I mentioned. Whether it was her persistence, or his background in porn he didn’t know, but for the first time he answered her lunch question with “how about today.”

**KENT:** That’s not good.

**FOSTER:** No it wasn’t. They went to lunch, and afterward were sexually intimate.

**KENT:** Sounds like a scene from a movie.

**FOSTER:** Except it was real and Mike had a wife and twin baby girls.

**KENT:** That is so tragic. But tell us more about Mike.

**FOSTER:** He had a background of long-term lust, pornography, and self-gratification. Also he was considered very handsome.

**KENT:** That's not a good combination.

**FOSTER:** No, in fact, after his affair with the secretary, Mike was angry with God for making him so handsome that lonely, sexually aggressive women were always after him.

**KENT:** Uh huh. Foster, being totally honest, my guess is there's men out there thinking, "I wish I had that problem—having to fight off women." I think we've all had that thought at one time or another, but the story of Mike you shared is so revealing. Here is a guy that has the girls after him, and it likely ruined his marriage. And that is how Satan works. He makes sin look desirable,

**FOSTER:** but he always hides the damage that will result.

**KENT:** And with Mike, we say "well he shouldn't have gone to lunch with her." but pornography is exactly the same. For many men, it calls to them every day and says "*look at me—just for a little while. It will be okay.*" And it calls day after day. Satan makes pornography seem safe. But Proverbs 6 verses 27 and 28 say, "*Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?*" That is why we need to flee from it.

**FOSTER:** And we'll talk about fleeing from pornography in a moment. Right now I want to remind our listeners that you are listening to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. Today we are continuing our series on men and pornography by looking at the importance of fleeing from temptation. For parents, it's important to know that, though we will not be graphic, we will be discussing sexual issues that are not appropriate for younger ears to hear. So you may want to move children to a place where they can't hear this program. Kent, it seems like we know we should flee from lust and pornography, so why don't we?

**KENT:** The Bible teaches that temptations tend to come from at least three major areas. The first is Satan. And we looked at that earlier in this series.

**FOSTER:** Basically, if Satan tried to tempt Jesus Christ like we see in Matthew 4, he'll try to tempt us.

**KENT:** Right. The second area is the lust of our flesh. Temptations from within. James 1 verse 14 says, "*Each person is tempted by his own desire.*" Mike liked the attention he was getting from the secretary and the other women. We like the attention and feelings we have when we

lust over women. But James goes on to say in verse 15, *“Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”*

**FOSTER:** And we can't get around that.

**KENT:** No. The Bible is the instruction manual for man and it's always right.

**FOSTER:** What is the third area temptations come from?

**KENT:** The world around us. Our entertainment, our sports, our education, and our financial teachings are all set up to meet our needs apart from God. Paul wrote in Romans 12 verse 2, *“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”* And an important part of that change is fleeing from lust in any form.

**FOSTER:** What does fleeing look like?

**KENT:** Fleeing can come three forms. The first form is fleeing.

**FOSTER:** Actually running away.

**KENT:** Yes. The best biblical example is Joseph. In Genesis chapters 38 and 39 we read about how the wife of Joseph's boss was very similar to the secretary Mike faced. but when Joseph faced his temptation he said *“How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.”*

**FOSTER:** If only all of us had that kind of conviction.

**KENT:** I think we all do, to a point. Mike said “Never” to the secretary for a while. We stop looking at pornography...for a while. We don't lust at the neighbor's wife...for a while. But the temptations don't stop.

**FOSTER:** Like they didn't for Joseph.

**KENT:** Exactly. The Bible says, *“She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. (that is a hedge of protection—and we'll talk about that next, but “She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, “Come on, sleep with me!” So, what did Joseph do?*

The Bible says, *“Joseph tore himself away, but left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.”*

Joseph literally ran away.

**FOSTER:** And you're saying we as men need to do that.

**KENT:** Absolutely. The potential embarrassment or whatever consequence is far less than the damage the sin-for-a-moment would cause to our reputation, character, and legacy with our family. When the woman in that bikini or short skirt comes on the TV screen, close your eyes or leave the room. Flee temptation.

**FOSTER:** And you mentioned the second form of fleeing was putting up a hedge of protection.

**KENT:** Yes. You don't put yourself in a position to be tempted. For example, there are websites where you can find out what types of things, like nudity, are in a movie before you choose to watch it. Put your computer in the center of the house and tell your wife to challenge you anytime you are on the computer while she is going to bed.

**FOSTER:** Just as a side note Kent, it's tough to pray together with your wife before you go to bed if she's in bed and you're on the computer.

**KENT:** Great point.

**FOSTER:** But what about situations where you can't flee? What if it's a work situation like Mike's?

**KENT:** Tell your wife.

**FOSTER:** Excuse me?!

**KENT:** Foster, can you think of any better accountability partner in a situation like that, than your wife? Is she going to cut you any slack? Is she going to forget to ask you? Is she going to just understand, if you behave even a little bit unbiblical?

**FOSTER:** No. She'd hold me accountable.

**KENT:** Now, not every wife would handle being an accountability partner in this type of situation, but the point is, **it is** that type of ruthless accountability that is necessary to keep us in flee mode.

**FOSTER:** Ok. The first type of fleeing is to flee. The second type of fleeing is to put up hedges of protection. What is the third type?

**KENT:** When we flee **from** temptation we need to run **to** Jesus. Psalm 61 verse 2 says, “*From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*” Jesus can help us because He knows about temptation.

**FOSTER:** Hebrews 4 verse 15, “*For we do not have a high priest (Jesus) who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one (Jesus) who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin.*”

**KENT:** Yes, Jesus knows what we are going through, and He also knows how to get us through it, but we have to **turn** to Him when we’re tempted. Cry out to Him for help. Our **goal** is sexual purity, and Jesus can help.

**FOSTER:** Kent, before we finish, what do you say to the man whose listening and saying, I’ve messed up so badly and I don’t know what to do?

**KENT:** First the good news. The Bible says there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ. Any condemnation you’re feeling is from Satan. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.”

Second, confess your sins to God. If you confess your sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive you for all your sins. **Third**, talk to a pastor or another Godly man. James 5 verse 16 says, “*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.*” As we’ve mentioned, having outside accountability can be very helpful.

**Last**, listen to this entire series again and pray that God will help you to apply the principles we’ve discussed.

**FOSTER:** If I may interject here, Kent,

**KENT:** Sure

**FOSTER:** I would urge this listener to listen to the other series we’ve done. They provide tools to help you deepen your walk with God and that is very important to maintaining sexual purity. In a moment, I’ll tell you where you can hear those programs, but Kent, I want to thank you for another challenging and encouraging discussion. We’ll be right back.

### **Program Close**

**FOSTER:** Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we discussed the importance of fleeing when a temptation to lust or act out on our lust occurs. You can listen to this or any of the programs in this series our website [championsarise.org](http://championsarise.org).

I'm Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. I hope you'll join us next time as we continue our series on men and pornography. Until then, thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

**Closing ID**

**(CA2) EMAPW 10 – Pornography: The Flee Principle**