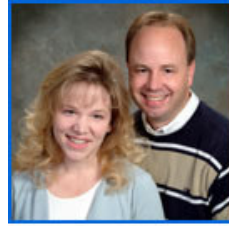


Dear Friends,

We are glad that you have come to this Bible study. We pray that it will be useful to you.



Mike and Jody Cleveland

A United Front Bible Study

<http://www.settingcaptivesfree.com/spouses/study.php>



Setting Captives Free exists to offer Christ-centered Hope and Freedom to those in the grip of sin through accountability to Bible-based Truth resulting in the true enjoyment of Life in and for the Glory of God.



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A United Front

What do we mean by

“A United Front?”

The point of this study is to help you help your spouse break free from a pornographic addiction or any other form of sexual impurity.

Our goal is to give you the tools you need to become knowledgeable about this temptation of the devil and about how to stand with your spouse as a **United Front** against the temptation so that it may be overcome (Ecc 4:12).

You will find biblical truths with practical applications. Our prayer is that this information will be an instrument of God's grace to you.

If your marriage seems hopeless, then have faith...with God all things are possible!

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If you are planning on taking this Bible study course, you will need to have the book, "*The Excellent Wife*" by Martha Peace, within one week after you begin. It would be best to order this book immediately so that you can complete the lessons.

Grace and love to you!

Jody Cleveland

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In Hosea 6, we find these words: "Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but He will heal us; He has injured us but He will bind up our wounds."

Dear one, perhaps God is tearing your family apart right now; but take heart; He is also able to heal! Press on with your spouse so that together you may return to the Lord and be healed!

65% of men responding to a Promise Keepers poll indicated they have a struggle with pornography.

Should you be suspicious?

The first signals of sexual sins are usually subtle. You may just have a sense that "something is different" about your spouse. But think through the following "symptoms" and see if any apply to your spouse:

- Ⓜ More distant and/or less attentive
- Ⓜ More preoccupied with job, home, or outside interests
- Ⓜ More attentive to clothes and accessories
- Ⓜ More focused on weight and appearance
- Ⓜ More absent from home with time unaccounted for
- Ⓜ Increased TV viewing
- Ⓜ More interested in trying new things sexually than before

- Ⓜ Less willing to talk or spend time together
- Ⓜ Less interested in family issues
- Ⓜ Less (or more) interested in sex than usual
- Ⓜ Less involved in shared activities
- Ⓜ Defensive or guarded in conversations
- Ⓜ Easily angered
- Ⓜ More critical of you than usual

Your spouse may have some of these indicators but that does not necessarily mean he is guilty; remember, do not judge a matter until you have all the facts! "He who answers before listening that is his folly and his shame." Proverbs 18:13

If you suspect that your spouse is involved with pornography or some other form of sexual impurity, the first thing to do is pray. Ask God for wisdom, discernment, a gracious spirit and a heart of love for your spouse. Remember, if your spouse is involved in sexual sin, the idea is not to destroy him, but to help restore him!

The second thing to do is find out whether or not your suspicions are a reality. This may be as simple as checking the history on your computer, or it may be much more complicated.

What do I do now?

If you are sure your spouse is engaging in sinful activities, you will need to lovingly confront him or her.

Tell your spouse what he is doing is contrary to what Scripture says to be right. Your reason for reproving your spouse will be to help restore him to a right relationship with God and you.

As you prepare to confront your spouse, please consider the following:

Timing is important! "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven... a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak," Ecc. 3:1, 7

You should not confront your spouse in front of others (including your children) or when you are angry, hurt, bitter, or when you will not have enough time to talk through things. It is important to take the time to get your thoughts, emotions and Scriptures together ahead of time, and then to approach your spouse at a calm time and with a loving heart.

What you say is important! "The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil." Proverbs 15:28

Think through exactly what you want to say. It might help to write it out. Think calm, gentle and loving. Reprove your spouse, as you would like to be reprovved. (Luke 6:31) Be specific and give hope; it is important!

At this point, if your spouse humbly receives your rebuke and asks for forgiveness, you need to forgive him or her.