

Ways of being with women as well as with men, and it is amazing how much of a relief it gives a man just to have social communication with women rather than to be with men all the time. God does not wish us ordinarily to deny the natural desires of the human nature but to put them in their proper place.

But second, there is the excess of the satisfaction. Like the person who watches TV all day long. The person who lets his natural appetites become extremely important to him. Gluttony is certainly a vice that is very common in America. It is very common in the ministry. It is amazing how many men are misled by lust and their ministry is ruined. But I believe there is an equal number whose effectiveness is tremendously cut down because they allow themselves to become gluttons.

In our country we find the appetites for drink which is a normal appetite. We need fruit juice. We need various types of drink. But the people whose lives are ruined by alcohol, even people whose lives have been dedicated to the work of Christ is very great. God wants us not to deny these natural appetites. He wants us never to carry satisfaction of them to excess.

In the third place he wants us to avoid perversion of the natural appetites. Surely the drinking of alcohol, surely the smoking of tobacco is a perversion of the natural appetite. There are many perversions into which we can easily fall. Jesus set us an example in the first phase of his temptation where he was offered, not something that would appear to you revolting like most gross temptations do at first to most who have been in Christian circles. But something that is perfectly normal but without -- but which was out of place in that particular situation. Jesus said, Thou shalt live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

The first temptation of the Lord has I believe a very special importance for us who are faced with similar temptations. We are faced with the temptation to make the satisfaction of the natural desires of the body the supreme thing. I've known many--not from this seminary but from other seminaries who have graduated and become the pastor of a church and after 3 or 4 years they drop out and they get into secular work. I do not know the situation in each of these cases. I cannot pass any general judgment. But I know of one fellow who graduated from the seminary, went out to Ohio, took a little church there and he found the little church very disappointing and discouraging to him. But he kept on working at it. He found there was not enough money to support him. So he took a secular job. He worked and toiled and tried to develop the church. Time after time he felt like giving it up and going into secular work entirely. He came back and visited us after about 20 yrs. of service. He told us that now the church was able to fully support him, and the church was having a real witness in that place in Ohio. He felt the Lord was using him in the work. He kept on; he kept pushing ahead. He did not let his desire for bread for himself and his family lead him to put it ahead of the Lord's work. I think here's a temptation which perhaps can become a real one to seminary students because to many of you nowadays find it a hard task to find work sufficient to support oneself and one's family in these days. And yet the recompense you get from it is