

Wednesday, October 3, 2018
Wednesday night couple's groups
Week 7
"From this day forward"
Small group questions

Main Idea:

To have a healthy marriage, couples must strive for both inward and outward purity.

- What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
- If there is one area of vulnerability that could compromise your purity, what would it be?

Read and discuss Hebrews 13:4, Ephesians 5:3, 1 Corinthians 10:13, and Psalm 119:9-11.

Points to help explain:

Hebrews 13:4

Two pro-marriage ideas appear in this verse:

First, marriage is to be honored by all. Even among believers today the stability of marriage faces strong challenges. Christians must honor marriage as divine in its origin and as right and good in its practice. This verse helps us to see that celibacy is not superior to marriage.

Second, those who are married must maintain moral purity. The fact that God will judge sexual promiscuity provides motivation for a holy lifestyle among believers. Violators of this command may be celebrated by some human beings, but they will reap eternal divine displeasure (Eph. 5:6).¹

Ephesians 5:3

The opposite of imitating God and giving oneself up for him is living in **sexual immorality**, **impurity**, and **greed** (note the same Greek words for *impurity* and *greed* in 4:19). Paul says that it is not proper for these things even to be named among the children of God.²

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹ Lea, T. D. (1999). [*Hebrews, James*](#) (Vol. 10, p. 237). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² Anders, M. (1999). [*Galatians-Colossians*](#) (Vol. 8, p. 170). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

What is Paul's warning about temptation?

First, all temptations that Christians experience, including that of idolatry, are **common to man**. Others had resisted the temptation toward idolatry, and the Corinthians could do so as well.

Second, **God is faithful**, and he will not desert his people (see Deut. 7:9; 1 Thess. 5:24; Heb. 10:23; Rev. 1:5). God can be trusted not to allow temptations **beyond what Christians can bear**. God will always **provide a way out** of temptation, so believers **can stand up** and not fall into apostasy. He himself tempts no one (Jas. 1:13), but he is in control of Satan, who tempts believers to sin (Matt. 4:1; 6:13). Because of his great love for his children, God does not allow temptations to be so great that they overcome us. Instead, Christians sin because they do not search for **a way out**.³

Psalm 119:9-11

Purity is impossible unless God's word is observed (cf. the various synonyms for 'word' used in the following verses). The answer to the question (lit. 'to keep according to your word') is simply a summary of repeated instructions in Deuteronomy concerning keeping God's commands (see, for example, 6:17; 10:13; 11:8; 27:1; 30:10).

To hide God's word in the heart is more than just being able to recite from memory. It is living in accord with the directives that he has given. To stop listening to that instruction causes one to 'stray from the words of knowledge' (Prov. 19:27). Hence he appeals to God to keep him faithful.⁴

- Do a reality check: Is seeking purity a priority in your marriage? Why or why not?
- What outward or inward changes do you need to make to ensure you live a life of purity?

ACTION STEPS:

- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?

Take steps to ensure maintaining purity is a priority in your marriage by reading and talking over the following Bible passages this week: Hebrews 13:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Ephesians 5:1-21; Psalm 119:1-16

³ Pratt, R. L., Jr. (2000). [*I & II Corinthians*](#) (Vol. 7, pp. 165-166). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

⁴ Harman, A. (2011). [*Psalms: A Mentor Commentary*](#) (Vol. 1-2, pp. 845-846). Ross-shire, Great Britain: Mentor.