

Wednesday, October 10, 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.

WHY IS IMPURITY IN MARRIAGE INCREASING?

- **MORE TEMPTATIONS TODAY THAN IN THE PAST.**
 - **Misconception: I am ok to let my eyes/heart wonder.**
- **PEOPLE ARE GETTING MARRIED LATER.**
 - **Misconception: I am going to experience life before marriage and bring my past into the marriage.**
- **GROWING SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT.**
 - **Misconception: I deserve to be happy instead of remaining committed.**

INWARD AND OUTWARD PURITY

1) OUTWARD PURITY: THE BEHAVIOR.

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity... Ephesians 5:3

Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house.
Proverbs 5:8

Flee from sexual immorality...¹⁹ You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 6:18, 19-20

What are some common statements that you see above?

What does this tell you about how we are to act in our marriages?

What makes it difficult to flee or to keep a path from impurity today?

Why is accountability needed with our mate and with others about purity in marriage?

2) INWARD PURITY: THE HEART.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:9-11

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:28

Why does God desire us not only to act in purity but to think purely?

In what ways have you seen purity impact the heart before the actions?

What are ways that you can specifically guard your heart? What are ways that you can help to protect the heart of your spouse?

If there is one area of vulnerability that could compromise your purity, what would it be? What can you do tonight to remove this point of compromise?

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

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?

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.

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.

- 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