

WINNING THE PURITY WAR

Seminar with Dr. Jim Cecy

PART ONE “A REVIVAL OF PURITY”

INTRODUCTION

I. THREE COMMANDS FOR SEXUAL PURITY (1 Thessalonians 4:3-6a)

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification . . .” (4:3a).

Command #1 Abstain from Sexual Immorality

“ . . . that is that you abstain from sexual immorality . . .” (4:3b).

Command #2 Know How to Acquire a Mate

“ . . . that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God . . .” (4:4-5).

Command #3 Don't Transgress and Defraud

“ . . . and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter . . .” (4:6).

II. THREE REASONS FOR SEXUAL PURITY (1 Thessalonians 4:6b-8)

Reason #1 God Avenges Immorality

“ . . . because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we told you before and solemnly warned you” (4:6b).

Reason #2 God Calls Believers to be Pure

“For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification” (4:7).

Reason #3 God Himself is Holy and Empowers Us to be Holy

“Consequently he who rejects this is not rejecting man, but the God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you” (4:8).

PART TWO

“ONENESS IN MARRIAGE”

I. GOD'S CREATION OF THE SEXUAL DRIVE

- 1. It's Definition**
- 2. Its Designer (Gen. 1:27; 2:24-25)**
- 3. Our Decision (Ps. 139:13-14; 1 Tim. 4:4-5)**

II. GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE SEXUAL UNION (Mark 10:6-9)

1. Covenantal Oneness

- a) Marriage is a covenant (Mal. 2:14)**
- b) Marriage is a binding covenant (Mk. 10:6-9)**
- c) Marriage is ratified by the sexual union (Ez. 16:8)**
- d) Marriage involves the regular and continual expression of love through the sexual union**
(Gen. 2:18; 1 Cor. 7:5; Heb. 13:4)
- e) Marriage covenant can be broken through sexual immorality (Prov. 2:17; 1 Cor. 6:16; cf. Ez. 16:59)**

2. Restorative Oneness

- a) The covenant is destroyed through sexual union outside of marriage (cf. 1 Cor. 6)**
- b) The covenant is renewed through sexual union within marriage (Ez. 16:15, 59-60; cf. Hosea 2-3)**

3. Illustrative Oneness (Eph. 5:25-32)

4. Sacred Oneness (Gen. 2:24; Deut. 6:4; Gen. 4:1; Prov. 3:6)

5. Procreative Oneness (Gen. 1:28; 4:1; 9:1, 7; Ps. 127:3-5)

6. Physical Oneness (Gen. 2:24-25; 1 Cor. 7:3-5)

7. Emotional Oneness (1 Pet. 3:8; cf. Song of Solomon)

8. Spiritual Oneness (1 Pet. 3:7; cf. "one another verses")

9. Recreational Oneness (Prov. 5:15, 18-19; cf. Song of Solomon)

- a) Its freedom (1 Tim. 4:4-5)**
- b) Its restrictions (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 10:31; cf. Eph. 5:25-32)**

PART THREE

“MAN'S ABUSES”

I. IMMORALITY

The Definition: Immorality is any thought or action that violates God's intended design for our sexuality.

1. Lustful Thoughts

The Definition: Any thought that violates God's intended design for our sexuality.

- a) Sinful lust is a heart issue.
- b) Sinful lust is also a learned response.

2. Immoral Behavior

The Definition: Immoral behavior is any behavior that violates God's intended design for our sexuality.

The Perishing Principle

II. INSENSITIVITY TO SIN'S ATTACK: THE PROCESS OF SEDUCTION

We are deceived by:

- 1. Our own flesh - with its natural bent toward sin.**
- 2. The world - with its twisted values.**
- 3. The devil - with his specific plan to oppose anything godly.**

Step #1 - Faltering In The Search For Biblical Wisdom

1. Meditate on God's Word daily (cf. Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:9-11; Psalm 1; 2 Timothy 3:15-16)
2. Pray to him faithfully (Matthew 6:9-13; John 14:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 John 5:14-15)
3. Take your spiritual pulse regularly

Step #2 - Failing In The Development Of The Marriage Relationship

Step #3 - Fantasizing In The Arena Of The Mind

Step #4 - Flirting With Those Of The Opposite Sex

1. We develop a wandering eye (Proverbs 6:25)
2. We develop a careless lifestyle (Proverbs 7:7-8)
The Nature of Seduction: A Study From Proverbs 5-9
 1. She appeals to him with her physical charms (Prov.6:25; 7:10)
 2. She appeals to him with her personality (Prov.7:10-13; 9:13)
 3. She appeals to him with her words (Prov.6:24; 7:5, 14-15, 18-21; 2:16)
 4. She appeals to him by setting a seductive atmosphere (Prov.7:11, 16-17)

Step #5 Falling Into The Trap Of Immorality

Specific results of immorality:

1. Guilt and unclear conscience (Proverbs 5:12-13)
2. Loss of honor and public disgrace (Proverbs 5:14; 6:33)
3. Loss of money and possible poverty (Proverbs 5:10; 6:26)
4. Entrapment into habitual sin (Proverbs 2:19; 5:22-23; 7:6-10; 23:27-28; cf. Rom. 6:19; Heb. 3:13)
5. Venereal disease (Proverbs 5:7-11; cf. Psalm 38:1-8,11)
6. Wounds inflicted by an angry spouse (Proverbs 6:33-35)
7. Physical death (Proverbs 5:9; 6:32; cf. 1 Corinthians 5:5; 11:30; 1 John 5:16)
8. Devastating spiritual effects (Proverbs 7:27; 6:32)
9. Other social effects (Proverbs 5:14; Psalm 38:11)

PART FOUR

“SAFEGUARDING MY PERSONAL PURITY”

INTRODUCTION:

LINE OF DEFENSE #1: GUARDING MY MIND

Proverbs 4:23 “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”

A. Protect It

1. The Definition: Protecting my mind from anything that distorts my understanding of God's design for my sexuality.

Mark 7:21-23 “From within, out of the heart, come evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, lewdness

2. The Discussion: List the garbage that is polluting your life (Make a mental or even written list):

B. Provision It

1. The Definition: Feeding my mind with what God says about immorality.

Psalms 119:9-11. “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your word. With my whole heart I have sought you.....Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you..”

2. The Discussion: Write out two key verses concerning how God feels about immorality.

C. Purify It

1. The Definition: Purifying my mind by meditating on what God says about Himself and His creation.

Romans 12:2. “Don’t be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind

Philippians 4:8 “Whatever things are true, noble, just, pure...meditate on these things and the God of peace will be with you.”

2. The Discussion: List some of the attributes of God and how this truth might affect my sexuality?

For example: God is all-knowing and therefore he understands my struggles.

D. Prepare It

1. The Definition: Visualizing in my mind the devastating results of immorality

2. The Discussion: If I were caught in the act of sexual immorality I could expect the following impact in my life:

(Be specific. Use names of wife, children, friends, etc. Write them down).

LINE OF DEFENSE #2: GUARDING MY BODY

A. Present It

1. The two-part definition:

Part One: Presenting myself to the One who has the heavenly title deed to my body—God.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Romans 6:11-14

Romans 12:1 “Present your bodies as living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God (which is true worship”).

Part Two: Presenting myself to the one who has the earthly rights to my body—my spouse.

1 Corinthians 7:3-4

2. The Discussion: Prayerfully complete the following:

I, _____, present the heavenly title deed of my body to my God and the earthly rights to my body to my spouse.

B. Promise It

1. The Definition: Making a covenant agreement with God concerning every part of my body.

Job 31:1 I made a covenant with my eyes not to look (lustfully).

2. The Discussion: Prayerfully complete the following:

I, _____, make a covenant agreement with God concerning:

my eyes not to look at _____ my ears not to listen to _____

my mouth not to speak about _____ my hands not to touch _____

my feet not to run toward _____ my mind not to dwell on _____

my knees not to neglect praying for _____

C. Protect It

1. The Definition: Protecting my body from falling into immorality by running from evil.

- The example of Joseph in Genesis 39
- II Timothy 2:22. “Flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness...”
- Prov. 5:8 “...don’t go near the door of her house.”
- Prov. 7:25. “Don’t let your heart turn to her ways or stray to her paths.”
- I Thessalonians 5:22 “Avoid every kind of evil..”

2. The Discussion: What morally dangerous situations exist in your environment and how can you avoid them: at home, at work, in the community, at church, while traveling? List them. Write down ways you can avoid them.

LINE OF DEFENSE #3: GUARDING MY COMPANIONS

- 1 Corinthians 12:14. “Now the body is not made up of one part, but of many...”
- Hebrews 10:24. “Let us consider how we may spur one another to love and good deeds..”
- Proverbs 27:17. “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another...”

A. Pray For Them

B. Protect Them

- Accountability groups.

"... GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY" 1 Corinthians 6:20