

DISCIPLINES OF A GODLY MAN - PURITY

Chapter 2

Read 2 Samuel 11

Our society has become addicted to sensuality. We can hardly turn on our televisions without seeing some kind of picture or reference to sex. From our schools, business, music, movies, and people in high places, the message is the same: freedom to use our bodies in any way we choose without consequences. And the church is not free from this philosophy.

Divorce rate among believers is the same as among non-believers. Christian singles are just as sexually active as non-Christian singles. Almost one-third of pastors admit to extramarital encounters. Almost half of pastors admit to inappropriate sexual behavior. The percentage in the congregations is higher. And it does not seem to be a major concern. The conclusion is that the evangelical church in America has begun to look like the church at Corinth in the days of the Apostle Paul.

I. Corinthian Church Model

- A. _____
1. City of Corinth known for gross sexual immorality, idolatry, divisive philosophies
 2. Famous for using prostitution as a form of worship
 - a. The city's chief god was Aphrodite (Venus), the goddess of love.
 - b. 1,000 female prostitutes served in the temple dedicated to the worship of Aphrodite.
 - c. This helps explain why many new believers had difficulty living a holy lifestyle.
- B. _____ toward sexual sin (*1 Corinthians 5*)
1. To be labeled as being "Corinthianized" was an insult, because it meant you had little or no boundaries in your attitude and behavior.
- C. Consequences of sexual immorality for today's church
1. Loss of _____
 2. Reluctance to _____ members
 3. Become _____ to the world
 4. Rejected by a large portion of _____
 5. Loss of power and influence

II. Lessons From a Fallen King (*2 Samuel 11*)

- A. Prosperity
- B. Desensitization
 1. Multitude of wives
 2. God's rule for purity (*Deut. 17:14-17*)
 3. David accepted socially accepted sexual attitudes and beliefs
 - a. Although legal by the culture, it was sin in the eyes of God
 - b. It is the legal, socially accepted things that cause men to fall.
- C. Relaxation
- D. Fixation
- E. Rationalization
- F. Degeneration

III. The Will of God: PURITY

A. Read *1 Thessalonians 4:3-8*

1. The sexually immoral man is guilty of several things:
 - a. Breaking a _____ code
 - b. Sinning against his _____
 - c. Sinning against _____
 - d. Sinning against the _____ involved

IV. The Discipline of Purity

A. Accountability

1. Someone who will check on how you handle your moral life and ask you hard questions

B. Prayer

C. God's Word (memorization)

Psalm 119:11 - Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

D. Mind

Philippians 4:8 - *Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious— the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. (The Message)*

E. Hedges (boundaries)

1. Set up some do's and don'ts about how you will act and talk around women.

F. Reality

1. Do not think you are too strong to fall into temptation

G. Divine awareness

1. What you do is directly related to your relationship with God.

APPLICATION:

- **Name one thing about commitment that needs to be sharpened in your life.**
-

- **Give one specific action you will take in the next 30 days to improve this issue.**
-

Conclusion: Research and statistics tell us the sad facts that far too many Christian men are falling victim to obsessions and the immoralities of the culture in which we live. In order to recover or resist, we must practice discipline. It is God's will for us. The way we handle this will affect our families and those who look to us for leadership for generations to come.