

Series in First Thessalonians
"Beyond Purity," part 2
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

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Cell Group Discussion Questions

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Portions of this discussion are most profitable in men/women only small groups.

1. Read together 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.
Read also 2 Timothy 2:22
2. Take time to reflect and discuss Sanctification. What are the 'weeds' in your life that need to be pulled? What are the 'seeds' that need to be planted?
3. In what areas of life are you "prone to wander"?
Read James 1:14-15
4. Read 1 Timothy 4:16.
In what areas of life do we need to watch ourselves more closely?
In what areas of our doctrine do we need to grow more deeply?
5. Read Matthew 26:41 and Romans 13:13-14.
What practical strategy can we place in our lives to avoid sin?
6. *Spend time in prayer for one another for purity and accountability in this matter.*

Other Resources:

Books:

Ed Welch "Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave"
Stephen Arterburn "Every Man's Battle"
Shannon Ethridge "Every Woman's Battle"
Dan Allender "The Wounded Heart"

Website:

www.xxxchurch.com

A critical strategy to avoid sin is to understand the anatomy of sin.

I. The Battlefield

A. Sanctification - to be made holy.

One movement with two parts, away from isolation, towards intimacy with God. "Mortification" - to put to death. "Vivification" - to grow.

2 Timothy 2:22

II. Our Enemy

- A. The enemy knows your thoughts.
- B. The enemy knows your affections.

James 1:14

1 Timothy 4:16

III. Our Strategy

Matthew 26:41

Romans 13:13-14

- A. **We must do the hard work of self-examination.**
- B. **We cannot do it on our own. If Jesus had to save us from the penalty of sin then it is Jesus who will save us from its power.**

Living Hope sermon notes

The audio of this message can be heard or downloaded from www.livinghopecc.org

Further Application Points
from *"Vintage Jesus"* by Mark Driscoll

1. Become a Christian and worship the Creator instead of creation.

"To him be the glory forever. Amen. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship" (Romans 11:36-12:1).

2. Live out of your regenerated heart by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you" (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

3. Live as a new person with a new mind.

"Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:17-24).

4. Put your sexual sin to death.

"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away" (Colossians 3:5-8).

5. Make no provision for the flesh.

"Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires" (Romans 13:13-14).

6. Run to Jesus, your sympathetic High Priest.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15-16).

7. Walk in the light with your church, and professionals if needed.

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:5-7).

8. Flee temptation.

"Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

9. Pursue satisfying marriage when ready.

"Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: 'It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.' But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control" (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).

10. Have your spouse as your standard of beauty.

"Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man'" (Genesis 2:23).

11. Repent quickly and keep fighting.

"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul" (1 Peter 2:11).