

Scripture

Genesis 39:1-23

Look for our event!



Purity

“Character Counts” - Week Ten

3/14/2021

I. The Nature of Temptation

A. Temptation Begins with the Eyes - Vs. 6

**B. Temptation is a Desire of the Heart
- Vs. 7**

C. Temptation is an Act of the Will - Vs 7

James 1:14-15 -

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

“Temptation, then, in general, is any thing, state, way, or condition that, upon any account whatsoever, has a force or efficacy to seduce, to draw the mind and heart of a person from its obedience, which God requires of him, into any sin, in any degree whatsoever. In particular, that is a temptation to any person which causes or occasions him to sin, or in anything to go off from his duty, either by bringing evil into her heart, or drawing out evil that is in his heart,...

or in any other way diverting him from communion with God and that constant, equal, universal obedience, in matter and manner, that is required of them.”

~John Owen

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Matthew 5:27-28 -

You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

II. The Power of Temptation

III. The Greater Power of Purity - Vs. 9

A. Call Sin What It Is

B. Lament What Sin Does

C. Delight in God our Good

“If the way to disengage the heart from the positive love of one great and ascendant object is to fasten it in positive love to another, then it is not by exposing the worthlessness of the former, but by addressing to the mental eye the worth of the latter, that all old things are to be done away, and all things are to become new...The only way to dispossess the heart of an old affection is by the expulsive power of a new one...

We know of no other way by which to keep the love of the world out of our heart than to keep in our hearts the love of God.”

**~Thomas Chalmers,
“The Expulsive Power of a New Affection”**

"The knowledge of God in Christ can fill the insatiable mind, satisfy the vast desires, and settle the staggering soul...Divine knowledge satisfies our desires, nourishes the soul, is bread to our hunger, light to our eyes, music to our ears, a cordial, to our hearts...it is the light of life, spiritual, eternal."

~Stephen Charnock

IV. The Practical Path to Purity

A. Set Boundaries - Vs. 10

Proverbs 4:14-15 -

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on.

IV. The Practical Path to Purity

B. Flee Evil - Vs. 11-12

I Cor. 6:8 -

Flee immorality!

Colossians 3:5 -

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:
sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire,
and covetousness, which is idolatry.

IV. The Practical Path to Purity

B. Flee Evil - Vs. 11-12

Matthew 5:29-30 -

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

V. The Eternal Implications of Purity

Proverbs 7:21-23 -

With her smooth talk she compels him. All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter...he does not know that it will cost him his life.

Genesis 49:22 -

“Joseph is a fruitful bough; a fruitful bough by a spring; its branches run over a wall”

“After brazenly denying the most common reasons I have heard against succumbing to a life filled with lust, Mauriac concludes that there is only one reason to seek purity. It is the reason Christ proposed in the beatitudes: ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.’ Purity, says Mauriac, is the condition for a higher love- for a possession superior to all possessions: God Himself...The thought hit me like a bell rung in a dark, silent hall. So far, none of the scary, negative arguments against lust had succeeded in keeping me from it. Fear and guilt...

simply did not give me resolve; they added self-hatred to my problems. But here was a description of what I was missing by continuing to harbor lust: I was limiting my own intimacy with God. The love he offers is so transcendent and possessing it requires our faculties to be purified and cleansed before we can possibly contain it. Could he, in fact, substitute another thirst and another hunger for the one I had never filled? Would Living Water somehow quench lust? That was the gamble of faith.”

~Leadership Magazine, fall, 1982