

Purity – Leader's Tip Sheet

The Big Idea

This week your group will be dealing with the Topic of Purity. Purity is a very sensitive issue that each of us deal with on a daily basis. Today's culture is no help to us in achieving purity. Examples include movies, television, music, the Internet, mail order catalogs, the list could continue.

Our time together is a good start in addressing everyone's struggles with purity. Sexual purity is not the only issue in today's culture. This study spends time looking at purity of speech, purity of thoughts and financial purity as well.

If by the end of this purity study each group member can identify a couple of issues that need to be addressed in their own lives' this will have been a successful session.

Probing the Scriptures

- Philippians 4:8 – Paul's encouragement to "dwell on these things" is followed by a second encouragement to "practice these things" (v.9). Combining v.8,9 is sure to change people's thoughts.
- Ephesians 5:3 – Paul is moving from the specific sin of sexual immorality to general sins of purity such as greed, any excessive desire can produce impurity.
- Ephesians 4:29 – Our focus not only changes from saying unwholesome things, but lifting our brothers and sisters up.
- Psalms 139 – David is showing a great loyalty to God. David is asking God to examine his heart and see his true devotion. Nowhere, (outside *Job*), does one find expressed such a profound awareness of how great is it is to ask God to examine our soul and our thought life.
- Proverbs 11:1 – Other scriptures referring to cheating in the marketplace include. Lev. 19:35, Amos 8:5, Micah 6:11, 16:11, 20:10 and 20:23

Processing Together

Obviously, this could be a very touchy subject. Here are a couple of cautions.

- Be careful about embarrassing your group members
- Stay away from gossip
- When discussing the issue of sexual purity, be considerate of others in the group

Some definitions from Dictionary.com that will help with your discussion.

- True – Real and or genuine
- Noble - Having or showing qualities of high moral character, such as courage, generosity, or honor
- Right - Conforming with or conformable to justice, law, or morality
- Pure - Free of dirt, defilement, or pollution
- Lovely - Having beauty that appeals to the emotions as well as to the eye

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- Admirable - Having qualities to excite wonder
- Excellent - Of the highest or finest quality; exceptionally good of its kind
- Praiseworthy - Worthy of praise or applause; commendable

Putting into Practice

This is real world stuff. These are issues that each one of us goes through on a daily basis. A good way to put this into application is in childrearing. Finish your evening of ways we can help our children and grandchildren in the issue of purity

- Sexual – In what ways can we help our children stay pure in this area?
- Cursing, Gossip, and Lewd Jokes – What consequences or punishment would be an effective deterrent in this area?
- Financial Purity – How do teach your children to be good stewards?