



[study guide]

RELATIONSHIPS: Week 2: Purity

10.07.12

[warm up]

Whether you are single, dating, engaged or married, describe your view of a healthy romantic relationship. How does sexual behavior help or hinder that relationship?

How would you define sexual immorality/impurity?

In what ways has our culture taken sexual behavior and content to such an unhealthy level?

How does a couple successfully navigate the minefield of sexual immorality to find and pursue God's best plan for their relationship?

[digging deeper]

Read Ephesians 5:3-5. Now find a few resources that will allow you to study the culture and context regarding the city of Ephesus, especially related to the worship of Artemis/Diana (introduction to the book of Ephesians from a study Bible; a few links:

<http://www.bibleplaces.com/ephesus.htm>

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/specialsections/lifelists/lifelists-ephesus.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ephesus>

How do you think this culture presented a danger and challenge for the young Christian churches in the area of Ephesus? How is their situation similar to what followers of Christ have to deal with today? Read Acts 19:21-41 for additional clarity.

In Eph. 5:3-5, Paul lumps together sexual immorality with impurity, covetousness, greed, filthiness, foolish talk, crude talking and idolatry. How do they all relate to one another? (it may be interesting to read this passage in various versions to get even greater context)

What does sexual purity look like for: A single person? A person that is dating? An engaged person? A married person?

God's instruction on sexual purity isn't just merely trying to lay out rules and prevent people from having fun. He is trying to provide a preferred and better experience for us. What is it?

Why is sexual immorality incompatible with a person that claims to be a flower of Christ? Why is it so critical for Christ followers to fight for sexual purity? What is our primary motivation?



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Here are additional verses to study if you want to maximize your understanding in this area:

1 Tim. 5:1, 2 Titus 2:6, 12 1 Thess. 4:3-8 2 Cor. 6:14-15 1 Cor. 6:17-20
Gal. 5:19-24 Col 3:5-10 Eph. 4:17-23 Heb. 13:4 SOS 2:7; 3:5; 8:4

[living it out]

How would you honestly evaluate your current attitudes and behavior in the area of sexual purity within your romantic relationships?

- a) I have no interest in sexual purity (I don't even put up a fight)
- b) I have some intentions for sexual purity, but often cave to compromise or justification (I sort of fight for it)
- c) I value sexual purity and for the most part hold the line, but occasionally stumble (I occasionally give up the fight)
- d) I am grateful to God for experiencing a strong determination and commitment for sexual purity (I tenaciously fight for it)

How has love for Jesus helped you have victory in the area of sexual purity? How has Jesus' love for you helped you heal from past times of impurity?

Who are 2-3 people that love God and love you and will fight for you, that you have given an "all-access pass" to your life so that can have honest conversations about this area? Do you meet with them regularly and when is your next meeting? If you don't have anyone like that currently, who makes the top of the list and that you will commit to meet with?

What is your next practical step to help you protect or pursue a Christ-driven sexual purity

Is there someone that God has laid on your heart that you feel the need to pray for, check in on or seek an opportunity to lovingly engage them on God's best for them in the area of purity?

Close this time in prayer and pray that Christ continues to give you the passion to pursue sexual purity, holiness and health in this area of your life. Pray around the specific nature of what that looks like for you as a single, dating, engaged or married person.