

## Sexual Purity *A Rather Quaint Idea*

### WHEN WE PICK A HERO WE CHOOSE A DESTINY

- ✓ Those who want to be like Jesus, walk in **love**, putting the **needs and interests of others first**.  
Ephesians 5:1-2   Philippians 2:3-5
- ✓ Those who want to be like everyone else, walk in **lust**, putting their personal **desires above all else**.  
Ephesians 5:3-14

### A CLOSER LOOK Sexual Purity: A Rather Quaint Idea?

- (1) Sexual purity is a **big deal**.  
It's not an **"extra-credit option."**  
Ephesians 5:3-5   1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
- (2) God is not **opposed to sex**.  
Genesis 1:27-28   1 Corinthians 7:3-5
- (3) In this fallen world, sexual purity will never be **natural** or **easy**. It's **supernatural**.  
Genesis 3   Romans 7   Romans 12:2   Philippians 2:13
- (4) The path to purity starts with **avoidance** and **accountability**.
  - ✓ Avoidance: Flee **before** you're tempted  
Ephesians 5:3   1 Corinthians 6:18-20   Matthew 5:27-30
  - ✓ Accountability: Live as **transparently** as possible  
Ephesians 5:8-14

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 10, 2015

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Many of us struggle with the idea of being totally transparent with other people. Can you think of any areas where avoiding transparency gets people into the most trouble?

2. From diets and exercise to trying to avoid negative behaviors, most of us have had some sort of experience either asking for accountability or giving accountability. What are some experiences where you saw accountability succeed or fail in your own life or in the life of someone you know?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Another aspect of glasshouse living is having integrity which has been defined as having the same life in public that you do in private. How could the following verses help us differentiate between true integrity and "putting on a show" to impress others?

### Matthew 6:1-14

#### *Giving to the Needy*

<sup>1</sup> "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

#### *Prayer*

<sup>5</sup> "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup> "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.'

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. [NIV]

## **Matthew 7:15-20**

*True and False Prophets*

<sup>15</sup> "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. *[NIV]*

Besides sexual immorality, can you think of any areas of your private life that are a challenging to line up with your public life?

2. One of the biggest challenges to moving forward in sexual purity, or any area where we've blown it, is trying to put our past behind us. For some of us, no matter what we do to move on, we cannot erase the guilt of our past. Yet, Jesus was so adamant about his desire for us to have freedom from our past that he died for our right to do so. What assurances do the following verses give about how God views our past that could help us have a healthier view as well?

### **1 John 1:9**

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. *[NIV]*

### **Acts 3:19**

<sup>19</sup> Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, *[NIV]*

### **Psalms 103:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
<sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.  
<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;  
<sup>14</sup> for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust. *[NIV]*

What do the above verses say is our part in the process of God's forgiveness?

3. This weekend we heard lust is not just sexual desire but can also be any kind of self-consuming desire. With so many temptations and opportunities to "lust" surrounding us, it's no wonder we often get caught up. What sort of behind the scenes view does Proverbs 2:1-20 give in how God works as we seek to avoid lust?

### **Proverbs 2:1-20**

*Moral Benefits of Wisdom*

<sup>1</sup> My son, if you accept my words  
and store up my commands within you,  
<sup>2</sup> turning your ear to wisdom  
and applying your heart to understanding—

<sup>3</sup> indeed, if you call out for insight  
and cry aloud for understanding,  
<sup>4</sup> and if you look for it as for silver  
and search for it as for hidden treasure,  
<sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD  
and find the knowledge of God.  
<sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.  
<sup>7</sup> He holds success in store for the upright,  
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,  
<sup>8</sup> for he guards the course of the just  
and protects the way of his faithful ones.  
<sup>9</sup> Then you will understand what is right and just  
and fair—every good path.  
<sup>10</sup> For wisdom will enter your heart,  
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.  
<sup>11</sup> Discretion will protect you,  
and understanding will guard you.  
<sup>12</sup> Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,  
from men whose words are perverse,  
<sup>13</sup> who have left the straight paths  
to walk in dark ways,  
<sup>14</sup> who delight in doing wrong  
and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,  
<sup>15</sup> whose paths are crooked  
and who are devious in their ways.  
<sup>16</sup> Wisdom will save you also from the adulterous woman,  
from the wayward woman with her seductive words,  
<sup>17</sup> who has left the partner of her youth  
and ignored the covenant she made before God.  
<sup>18</sup> Surely her house leads down to death  
and her paths to the spirits of the dead.  
<sup>19</sup> None who go to her return  
or attain the paths of life.  
<sup>20</sup> Thus you will walk in the ways of the good  
and keep to the paths of the righteous. *[NIV]*

How have you seen these truths play out in your own life?

What correlation do you see between gaining wisdom and God's protection?

### **TAKING IT HOME**

These next few questions are designed to be discussed by same gender groups. If your group is co-ed, please divide into men and women before discussing these questions.

1. How are you doing in the areas of:

**Glass house living:** Living transparently

**Accountability:** Being open and honest with those closest to you about your struggles and areas where you need help

2. As you think back through the sermon, are there any areas of sexual purity, transparency or accountability you want to work on in the next few weeks?

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**Resources for those struggling with Sexual Purity:**

- **Game Plan Packet** – for those struggling with pornography. Available in the Corner Café or front desk at the Vista campus and at the Carlsbad, Fallbrook, and San Marcos/Escondido Campuses. [northcoastchurch.com/the-game-plan](http://northcoastchurch.com/the-game-plan)
  - **North Coast Church Counseling Center** – *To schedule an appointment or to find out more information, call Jeanne Bessant at (760) 724-6700 x239*  
[northcoastchurch.com/connect/care/the-counseling-center](http://northcoastchurch.com/connect/care/the-counseling-center)
  - **Men Committed to Conquer** - Men's Sex Addiction Group  
*Contact Susan Trueblood for more information*  
*(760) 724-6700 x187*
  - **The Unintended Journey** – Recovery group for women who have men in their lives struggling with inappropriate sexual behavior or pornography.  
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