

THE PURE HEART WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9

GETTING STARTED

This weekend, we continued in our series, *The Cosmic Christ*. Over the last two weeks, we have been focusing on God's vision for sexual purity in our lives.

As you begin the study, reflect on this verse about how God has made us a new creation. Write down anything the Lord highlights for you.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

1 Corinthians 5:17

Side note: due to the sensitive nature of this week's topic, if you attend a co-ed group, we encourage you to split into separate groups for men and women for all or part of your discussion.

STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1. What are one or two key insights that stood out to you from the message this weekend, and why?
- 2. This weekend, we read what Jesus taught about sexual purity. Read Matthew 5:27-30.
 - a. Jesus' intensity and seriousness about this topic of lust are evident in this passage. What thoughts or emotions do Jesus' intense words bring up for you?
 - b. What does it look like for you to follow Jesus' words in this passage?
- 3. Jesus also talks about the importance of sexual purity and how it requires us to be transformed at a heart level in **Mark 7:1-23**. Read this passage to understand the larger context, and then answer the following questions.

| a. Now reread Mark 7:14-15 & 17-23. How would you summarize Jesus' teaching in these passages? |
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| b. Jesus gives twelve examples of sin that defile us. Three of the twelve examples involve sexual sin. What are they? |
| c. If we are to be transformed to be like Jesus, where does that transformation need to start? |
| 4. Michael shared that Sexual Purity Starts In The Heart. Read James 1:13-15. |
| a. Notice the stages from desire to death in this passage. What do you think this pattern looks like with sexual impurity? |
| b. How have you seen this pattern take shape in other areas of your life where you struggle? |
| 5. While Scripture is clear about the deadliness and dangers of sin, it also describes how God has given us ways to victory. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 . |
| a. What assurances does this verse give about temptation, including sexual temptation? |
| b. How have you seen God provide ways out of temptation for you in any area of sin you have struggled with? |
| 6. Confession of sin often plays a vital role in overcoming sin. Read Proverbs 28:13 , James 5:16 , and 1 John 1:9 . |
| a. How have you seen confession bring healing in your own experiences? |
| b. Is there anything you need to confess to someone right now to be set free and receive healing? |
| 7. This weekend, we learned that, although confession and prayer are good first steps toward overcoming any addiction, they are often not enough on their own. We need to listen and follow the Spirit as He shows us "the way out" (1 Corinthians 10:13). |
| a. Have you ever experienced this in your own life? Explain. |
| b. Is the Lord showing you "the way out" in this area of sexual temptation or in any other area of your life right now? If so, what are the next steps He is calling you to take? |