

*D GROUP – Life on Life Discipleship for Women of FBC

OUTLINE

Titus 2 for Women, Pursuing Purity, Part 1

THE ROLE OF WOMEN - OPENING DISCUSSION:

#1 When you hear the word “purity” what comes to your mind as it relates to a godly woman?

#2 Name one Bible character who showed purity and another one who did not.

#3 What was the outcome in the lives of these people?

Sexual purity is a crucial issue for Christians. An impure thought life is serious enough to hinder our walk with Christ. Compromises to purity that you continue to make will compound the guilt you feel over sins from the past. But God's Word offers hope to Christians with a guilty conscience. The Bible is God's sufficient resource to help you maintain a clean conscience and a pure heart. The Scripture gives us forthright instruction about God's standard for purity, warning us about the consequences of immorality and showing us examples from the lives of real people. In Titus 2:4-5 we see that moral purity is one of the crucial character qualities God maps out in His curriculum for training women in godliness. God says young women are to be trained to 4 ...*love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.* The word "pure" is used in this same way eight times in the New Testament. To be pure meant not to be ceremonially defiled. The word means to be holy, set apart for God in the way you live. Moral purity addresses the condition of your heart as well as the contents of your lifestyle. Let's look at three other New Testament passages that use this same word: 2 Corinthians 11:2 *for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.* Timothy 5:22 *keep yourself free from sin.* 1 Peter 3:2 *as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.* The New Testament shows us that impurity was a problem during the first century, even among Christians. And it continues to be a problem today, as long as Christians disregard or resist their Owner's manual, the Bible.

Christians who disregard the clear principles on purity that God has provided for His children in His Word end up with serious consequences. Not only do they struggle with guilt; they invite serious trouble into their lives. They are guaranteed to face turmoil in relationships. They model destructive behavior for their children to follow. They cannot maintain fellowship with Christ while practicing immorality, and if they remain in the church, they are practicing hypocrisy. Immorality will put their very lives at risk. And immorality may demonstrate that these “Christians” are not genuine believers. Let's examine purity from God's perspective to see why rebelling against it is such a serious sin. Allow God's Word to give you a conviction to strive for sexual purity.

God made sexual intimacy for marriage. Our Owner's manual, the Word of God, tells us over and over again that sexual intimacy outside of marriage is a sin with devastating consequences. But Hebrews 13:4 says that inside of marriage, sexual intercourse is honorable. *Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.* The expression of sexual love in marriage has God's joyous approval; but outside of marriage, it has God's sternest warnings. During the act of sexual intercourse between a Christian husband and wife, if Jesus suddenly returned, there would be no guilt and no judgment. Why? Because the One Who created you also designed sexual intimacy for your marriage. The Bible tells us that sex is for the enjoyment of your spouse and for procreation. In God's design, sex is viewed as a selfless act. Plus, the Bible spells out the dangers of lust—pursuing lust only causes it to increase and become insatiable. God's Word gives us clear warnings about the disastrous consequences of giving yourself over to lustful impurity.

But how do you draw the lines of purity outside of marriage? At what point is physical touch between an unmarried man and a woman wrong? Some try to manage the physical part of relationships by drawing a line. They decide they will not go beyond a certain point—holding hands, kissing, brief make-out sessions. But physical touch outside of marriage needs to be governed by God's guidelines and 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 provides the standard. ¹ *Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.* ² *But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.* You will find that the word translated "touch" in the NASB (and NKJV) is misleading. We find this word in several other passages that refer to physical touch, but the context of 1 Corinthians 7:1 indicates that Paul was talking about sexual intimacy outside of marriage. God calls this immorality. In other words, Paul was saying it is good that a man does not touch a woman in a way that might stir up his or her sensual desires, which could lead them into immorality. This passage clearly shows that any touch that might lead to sexual immorality is outside of God's will. God wisely instructed us to touch with natural affection and Christ-like care, but to avoid revving our sexual motor. His counsel is to stay far away from your internal limit, your individual line. He warns you to keep your soul free from lust. Don't let anyone other than your own husband sexually turn you on. Don't dress or talk or walk in a way that will turn on anyone who is not your husband. If you allow yourself to go down the path of immorality, sexual sin will master you. If you allow a relationship to move toward sexual immorality, this will become your priority. We have all seen this happen—maybe you've experienced it yourself. Couples battling with impurity will pull away from their families and close friends as sexual intimacy enslaves them. They fade out of sight of the church when their relationship is moving toward intercourse. Why? Because immorality is addictive and enslaving.

Let's look at three reasons that sexual sin must be avoided by the Titus 2 woman. Our look at what is taught will help us understand how serious God is about purity being the character of the godly Christian woman.

Sexual sin is a sin against your body. It opposes God's purpose for your body. In 1 Corinthians 6:13 Paul says, *Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.* God created you for the purpose of reflecting His glory. Verse 20, *For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.* God warns us not to expose our bodies to impurity because God is pure. Your body was designed to reflect the character of God—all who truly know Him will long to reflect Him. The text of this passage teaches us that sexual impurity is sin against your own body. Verse 18, *Flee from immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside of the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.* The verb translated "flee" is a command. This verb form means a continual fleeing. It means that the Christian should have a lifestyle that continually runs from immorality, impurity and sexual lust. In every situation and in every relationship the Christian is to run from sexual sin. Any expression or thought of sexuality outside of marriage—including all sexual desires and defilement from the world—should make the Christian run in panic! Wake up to the reality that sexual sin will leave permanent scars in your life. Our culture makes light of the consequences of immorality, but the guilt it causes can eat you alive. God will forgive the sin of impurity, but it is sin you will never forget.

Sexual sin is a sin against God. It impacts God as well as you, because He lives in you. 1 Corinthians 6:16 *do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body with her? For He says, "The two will become one flesh."* ¹⁷ *But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him...* ¹⁹ *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?* A Christian would never consider showing a pornographic movie to the elders of the church, yet many who call themselves Christians expose the Holy Spirit of God to fornication by using His dwelling place (their bodies) to commit sexual sin in His presence. Flee from sexual immorality at all costs because sexual sin involves God in your sin. Understand that your body is not your own. Sexual sin is sin against a body that belongs to God. Verse 20 says, *For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.* Since your body belongs to God, you should use it to honor Him.

Sexual sin is a sin against someone else. In almost every case, sexual intimacy outside of marriage is a corporate sin. It is a sin against the one with whom the sin occurs, against your spouse and against the spouse of your sexual partner. If you are unmarried and your sexual partner is unmarried, it is a sin against your future spouse and the future spouse of your sexual partner. In 1 Thessalonians 4:6-8, God gives us a severe warning about the consequences of sexual sin: ⁶ *and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.* ⁷ *For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.* ⁸ *Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.* In verse 6, when Paul says no man should transgress, he is telling us not to go beyond, exceed the limits or violate the rights of another person's purity. Defrauding another means to selfishly gain something at someone else's expense. It means, literally, to cheat or deceive someone out of his or her purity.

Unless you receive these passages as God's truth for your life, you will continue to focus on the wrong thing. The issue is not how much you can get away with or how close you can get to sin without actually sinning. Rather, **your focus needs to be how close you can get to Christ.** The goal of the Christian life is to bring God honor through your heart, soul, mind, and strength—and that includes the things you do with your body.

In our next lesson we provide some guidelines for developing and maintaining sexual purity in your life.

QUESTIONS for Discipleship Groups

1. Each person, briefly discuss areas of rejoicing and battling of being a Titus 2 woman as we have studied thus far.
2. What are some examples of fleeing immorality that you have observed or practiced?
3. How does the lack of sexual purity in Christians impact the Church and its mission?
4. **KEY: What can you be doing to make sure that your focus is on getting close to Christ so that sexual sin will not be a problem for you as it**

D group project: Be in prayer for the people of our church as they face a battle each day from the world in the area of sexual purity. Our young people in particular are easily influenced by what they see and hear. Pray for yourself to be a model of a godly woman that others can follow.