



NAVIGATE

CHANGE
YOUR DIRECTION

Castitas: Pursuing Purity

April 26th, 2015

Matthew 15:10-20 (ESV)

THE FIRST STEP TO PASSIONATE PURITY:

CONFRONT THE SEEDS OF LUST

Lust = A self-absorbed desire for temporary & degrading gratification.

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires (lust) and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. – James 1:14-15 (NKJV)

...I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, You shall not covet. – Romans 7:7 (AKJV)

We lust after:

- PEOPLE
- POWER
- POSSESSIONS
- POSSIBILITIES

The Pursuit of Purity

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

1. FOCUSES ON THE DIRECTION

God wants you to be made holy. He wants you to stay away from sexual sins. – 1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NIRV)

- Purity is not limited to virginity or sexual situations – it is a mindset of the heart.
- You will never “arrive” at purity; it is a constant journey of moving in the right direction.

The godly man may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked. – Proverbs 24:16 (NLT)

2. EMBRACES ACCOUNTABILITY

He wants all of you to learn to control your own bodies. You must live in a way that is holy. You must live with honor. – 1 Thessalonians 4:4 (NIRV)

- We cannot do it alone! (Lone rangers are dead rangers)
- We must be serious about closing down the gateways to temptation!

I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. I will set no worthless thing before my eyes...it shall not fasten its grip on me. – Psalm 101:2-3 (NASB)

3. PAVES THE WAY FOR INTIMACY

*Don't desire to commit sexual sins like people who don't know God.
– 1 Thessalonians 4:5 (NIRV)*

- Lust isolates us, and removes our capacity for authentic relationships.
- Intimacy = the joy of knowing someone fully & being known by that person without the fear of rejection.

We must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever...In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for "becoming one" with another. – 1 Corinthians 6:17-18 (MSG)

4. PROTECTS THE PURITY OF OTHERS

None of you should sin against your brother or sister by doing that. You should not take advantage of your brother or sister. – 1 Thessalonians 4:6 (NIRV)

- When you value the needs & sensitivity of those around you, you do what you can to protect the integrity of their hearts.

But God does care when you use your freedom carelessly in a way that leads a fellow believer...to be thrown off track. – 1 Corinthians 8:9 (MSG)

5. DISCOVERS FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST

*That's because God chose us to live pure lives. He wants us to be holy.
– 1 Thessalonians 4:7 (NIRV)*

- We were created to find our identity & security in the wholeness that Christ brings FIRST!

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. – Romans 13:14 (ESV)

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. – Matthew 5:3 (NIV)

I Will Change My Direction Today by...

- Memorizing **1 Thessalonians 4:7**.
- Confronting the seeds of lust in my heart with genuine repentance.
- Embracing accountability in my life through a trusted friend or mentor.
- Making the pursuit of purity a daily discipline in my life.

WALK THE TALK

A Growth Group Guide

1. Read through the full passage in Matthew 15:1-20, why do you think Jesus' statement about true purity angered the religious leaders of His day? What was wrong with the definition the Pharisees had of purity?
2. Which of the five points about pursuing purity seems the hardest for you to live out? What makes that point so challenging?
3. Why is the sin of lust so tempting to give in to? What makes the "promise" of easy pleasure so appealing?
4. What makes accountability such a great asset when it comes to conquering lust? How important is this aspect of purity's pursuit to you? What can you do to make it better?
5. Why is it important to find our ultimate fulfillment and security in Jesus? How is He able to restore wholeness to the brokenness caused by sin & lust?