

Pursuing a Godly Life

Moral Purity

June 11, 2023

“...for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

1 Timothy 4:7–8 (ESV)

Big Idea: Pursuing a Godly Life benefits you now and will leave a legacy when you die.

6 Phases on the Slope of Moral Failure

Looking at the life of King David, we see a cautionary tale **AND** the Grace and Mercy of God.

2 Samuel 11&12

- I. _____ Phase** - When we attach what we saw to “I wonder...”
 1. James 1:14-15
- II. _____ Phase** - Premeditated accommodations are made to achieve selfish desires.
- III. _____ Phase**- The premeditated prepared plan is acted upon.
 1. James 1:15 **Death - Metaphor - *the misery of the soul arising from sin.***
- IV. _____ Phase** – The fallout of the actions.
 1. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
- V. _____ Phase** – This is where repentance and reconciliation happen.
 1. Psalm 51
- VI. _____ Phase** – God continues to work in and through you for the purpose he has designed for you.
 1. If you mess up, fess up, clean up, get up, and move up!

It's Small Group Sunday – Join a Group in the Café' Lobby!

Moral Purity **Discuss and Apply**

Use the following questions to help you formulate age-appropriate questions to stimulate meaningful conversations. Please share your ideas and experiences with us at connect@manna.church.

1. What warning signs indicate we may be on the verge of crossing a moral line? How can we prevent ourselves from taking that step?
 2. What are some common rationalizations people use to justify immoral actions? How can we recognize and confront these rationalizations in our own lives?
 3. How can we support individuals who have experienced devastating consequences due to moral failure? What role do forgiveness and restoration play in the healing process?
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Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I humbly come before You, recognizing our need for Your guidance and strength. I commit myself to live according to Your standards of righteousness and to pursue moral freedom with all my heart. Lord, help me to establish healthy boundaries, guarding my heart and mind against the allure of sin. Please grant me the wisdom to recognize and confront the rationalizations that seek to justify wrong choices. Strengthen me to resist temptation and empower me to walk in obedience to Your commands. Lord, I also lift those who have experienced the devastating consequences of moral failure. Grant them healing, restoration, and the assurance of Your forgiveness. May I extend a hand of love and support to those in need, showing them Your grace and mercy.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

At Manna, We Believe in...Character over Calling

Many people are enamored with and attracted to – in some cases, beguiled by – talent, gifts, and anointing. Without character, though, it will all fall apart. We are not against talent, anointing, and charisma. But character trumps them all. Character is “king” in the Kingdom of God.

7 Steps to Moral Freedom

1 – Admit that you are trapped in sin –

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2 – Recognize that the battle begins in the mind –

Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

A. See this as a siege on a mental stronghold –

2 Cor. 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

B. Destroy strongholds with scripture –

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 – Meditate on scripture at three key times -

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

4 – Make NO provisions for the flesh -

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

5 – Make a “Covenant with your eyes” -

Job 31:1 I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?

6 – Become accountable to someone who has already achieved freedom –

2 Timothy 2:22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

7 – Remember the “Priority of Pursuit” –

Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.