

# STBC Men's "Table Talk"

Discussion Guide | February 20, 2021

Lesson One

**This Week's Theme: God's Man in the Mirror – Called, not for impurity, but in holiness**

## **Review and Prayer** (20 minutes)

- Get settled with coffee, juice, donuts, etc.
- Are there any key points from God's word that stand out from the Big Breakfast?
- Prayer. Share personal praises and prayer updates from past week. Pray together

## **Introduction** (25 minutes)

- What is lust? (review notes from lesson and discuss)
- What are the consequences of lust?
  - How does it offend God's holiness?
  - How does it bring reproach on the name of Christ?
  - How does it hinder a man in pursuit of holiness?
  - How does it damage the marriage relationship?
  - How does it damage the way a man thinks?
  - How does it diminish the value of women made in God's image?
  - How does it damage a man's relationship with fellow believers?
  - How will God judge a man that is enslaved and unrepentant in a life of lust?

## **Bible Passage Discussion – I Thessalonians 4:1-8** (60 minutes)

- What is absolutely necessary to have victory over lust?
- What is our purpose in fighting lust?
- Is God clear on what he requires in the area of sexual purity?
- How does sexual purity relate to our salvation?
- What does God require of us as it relates to sexual purity?
- Why must believers be pure in this area of sexuality?
- How does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit enable us to be pure?

## **Recap and Assignments for the week** (15 minutes)

- Read Proverbs 5, 6, and 7 and answer the questions and discuss the next time you meet
- Close with prayer

## Men's Table Talk – Lesson One – February 2021 Called, not for Impurity, but in Holiness

### Introduction:

The Apostle Paul writes to the church at Thessalonica (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:7) “For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness”. The impurity that Paul talks about here is sexual sin and this sin begins with lust. Scripture has much to say about this topic since it is a serious sin issue in our culture, but also a battle for even those within the church. As you consider “lust” in your life, do you hate lust or do you hate the consequences of lust? As followers of Christ we must have the mind of Christ and see sin the way he sees it. We must hate lust because he hates lust and his wrath will be directed towards those who do not repent of sins as this. As we study what scripture has to say about sinful lust, we must also see that victory in this area will not just be the elimination of lust in our lives, but replacing the pursuit of lustful thoughts and actions with the pursuit of holiness and a love for God. “For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness”.

### Initial Questions:

#### **What is lust?**

- Greek word for lust is *epithumia* - “to have a strong desire that is focused on satisfaction or attaining what is desired”
  - This word can be used to speak of good desires (see: Luke 22:15, Phil. 1:23, and I Thess. 2:17)
- However, the word is primarily used negatively to speak of evil desires and self-satisfaction.
  - “Lust is nothing more than evil desire looking for fulfillment. It is only looking for self-satisfaction” – Stuart Scott – *Biblical Manhood*
  - “To obey the “lust” thereof, refers to those evil desires which are ready to express themselves in bodily activity. They are equally the “lusts” of the flesh (Rom. 13:14, Gal. 5:16, Eph 2:3, 2 Pet. 2:18, I John 2:16), a phrase which describes the emotions of the soul, the natural tendency towards things evil.” – *Vines Concise Dictionary*
- The works of the flesh when exhibited sexually are described further in passages such as
  - Galatians 5:19–21 - <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality...I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
    - Sexual immorality – *porneia*. English word pornography comes from this word. Includes a broad range of sexual sins, including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, and prostitution.

- Impurity – *akatharsia* – moral and ceremonial uncleanness. In the OT, an individual deemed unclean would be prohibited from approaching God.
  - Sensuality – *aselgeia* – lack of restraint sexually. Indecency.
- Although our society (the world) continues to put temptations before us for sexual sins, sinful lust comes from within the heart of each man.
  - Mark 7:20–23 - <sup>20</sup> And he said, “**What comes out of a person is what defiles him.** <sup>21</sup> **For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup> coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup> **All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.**”**
- Lust is a selfish sexual desire and is sinful. Lust turns away from good sexual desire given by God in the marriage relationship. Lust begins in the mind of a man and then he looks to fulfil those selfish sexual desires in further thought and action.
  - Lust may even be present within the marriage relationship when the desire for sexual fulfilment is selfish.
- John Owen says in *Mortification of Sin*, “Every unclean thought or glance would be adultery if it could”. “Lust darkens the mind, extinguishes convictions, dethrones reason, interrupts the power and influences that resist it, and then breaks out into an open flame”
  - James 1:14–15 - <sup>4</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

### **What are the consequences of lust?**

- Talk through the various consequences of lust – The harboring of lustful thoughts and also the actions of satisfying those lustful thoughts.
  - How does it offend God’s holiness?
  - How does it bring reproach on the name of Christ?
  - How does it hinder a man in pursuit of holiness?
  - How does it damage the marriage relationship and a man’s role within marriage?
  - How does it damage the way a man thinks?
  - How does it diminish the value of women made in God’s image?
  - How does it damage a man’s relationship with fellow believers?
  - How will God judge a man that is enslaved and unrepentant in a life of lust?

## Key Passage for Lesson One:

Read this scripture with your men and use the notes below to help you work through the passage and apply it.

1 Thessalonians 4:1–8

<sup>1</sup>Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. <sup>2</sup>For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup>For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup>not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup>For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup>Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

## Key Points:

- In and through the Lord Jesus
  - Pleasing God more and more
    - God's will for you is sanctification
      - Abstain from sexual immorality
      - Control your body in holiness and honor
      - Don't live like those who don't know God
      - Don't take advantage of your brother
    - God's call for you is holiness, not impurity
  - Angering God by disregarding him. He will avenge
- Indwelling by the Holy Spirit

## Discuss the following key points of this passage:

### 1. The Lord Jesus (vs. 1-2)

What is absolutely necessary to have victory over lust?

- "We ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus" (vs. 1)
- "Instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus" (vs. 2)
- The truth that Paul provides is for those who are in Christ and ready to submit to and be instructed by Christ.
- There is no power to deal with sinful lust apart from Christ

## 2. Pleasing God (vs. 1)

What is our purpose in fighting lust?

- Our purpose is to bring glory to God.
- This is demonstrated in how we “walk”, the way we live.
- Paul urges believers to do so “more and more”.
  - The truth that is being taught is to be repeated over and over again. It is to be a habitual pattern in our lives.

## 3. The Will of God (vs. 2)

Is God clear on what he requires in the area of sexual purity?

- There are times we may wonder what the will of God is for our lives. In the area of sexual purity there is no ambiguity. God is very clear on what his will is for us as it relates to our thoughts and actions on sexuality.

## 4. Sanctification (vs. 2)

How does sexual purity relate to our salvation?

- Sanctification is holiness in action within our lives. Holiness is being set apart to God for his use and for his glory.
- We are positionally holy when God saves us, but because we still dwell within a body of flesh, we also must practice holiness and this is sanctification.
- Paul is providing instruction on what sanctification/holiness looks like in the area of sexuality.
- Sanctification is the path of a believer. Sexual sin was the former identity from which a believer has been cleansed.
  - 1 Corinthians 6:11
    - <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
  - Paul says you were “washed” and you were “sanctified” – Our position in Christ is one that is already clean and sanctified. It is now time to put that into practice in our thinking and actions.

## 5. Commandments within this passage (vs. 3-6)

What does God require of us as it relates to sexual purity?

- A. Abstain from sexual immorality
- B. Control your own body in holiness and honor
- C. Do not live like the Gentiles who do not know God
- D. Do not wrong your brother in this matter

- Abstain from sexual immorality
  - Withhold yourself. Hold yourself back from. Stay completely away from.
  - This leaves no room for “walking in the counsel of the wicked”, “standing in the way of sinners” or “sitting in the seat of the scornful”. (Psalm 1)
  - Ephesians 5:3 - <sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.
  - This abstinence must first be within our thought life.
  
- Control your own body in holiness and honor
  - Self-control is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:23)
  - 2 Timothy 1:7 - <sup>7</sup> for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
    - This spirit within us is the working of the Holy Spirit
  - We must recognize that we have been given the power to control our bodies through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not left helpless.
  - Don't let your body control you! Control your own body!
    - Don't let your emotions or passions determine what is right for you.
  - The purpose of our body is clear: Holiness and Honor
    - Not defiled, but set apart for God's glory
    - Honorable, respectful use of our body including our mind
    - Philippians 4:8 - <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
  
- Do not live like the Gentiles who do not know God
  - There is a difference and there must be a difference between the unsaved world and those who follow Christ.
    - Ephesians 4:17–19 - <sup>17</sup> Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup> They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.
    - Ephesians 4:20–24 - <sup>20</sup> But that is not the way you learned Christ! - <sup>21</sup> assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

- Do not wrong your brother in this matter
  - Do not defraud your brother
  - Do not take advantage of another for your personal gain and pleasure
  - Sexual sin in thought or action always uses someone else for your own pleasure
  - This is very grievous within the church which is the body of Christ and we are called to love others as Christ loves.

## 6. God's anger over sexual immorality (vs. 6)

How will God deal with the sexually immoral?

- God's Judgement
  - "The Lord is the avenger in all these things" (Vs. 6)
  - "Whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God" (vs. 8)
  - The sin of lust and sexual immorality is sin because it violates God's holiness
    - Psalm 51:4 - <sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
  - Many times, God simply allows the natural consequence of our sin to take hold. Our minds are warped, our relationships suffer, we lose sight of spiritual disciplines, etc. – This is God's judgement.
  - God also has the right to expose our sin and bring shame upon ourselves.
  - God may also discipline us through the removal of blessing, and judgement upon our bodies.
  - We must be certain of this:
    - Hebrews 12:6 - For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.
  - Paul says that he has solemnly warned them. This was serious. He did not want to see any of these believers to experience God's wrath in this matter.

## 7. God's call for purity (vs. 7)

- God has called us not to impurity, but in holiness
  - Righteous desires and actions are linked to the salvation God has granted
    - Ephesians 2:10 <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
    - Titus 2:11–12<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age

## 8. God's indwelling (vs. 8)

How does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit enable us to be pure?

- We must understand that as believers God dwells within us through the Holy Spirit.
- The Temple in the Old Testament was the dwelling place of God among his people. It was a holy place. Those who defiled this temple through uncleanness/impurity were in danger of God's wrath at any moment.
  - The Temple was a place of worship in which God was seen as holy and exalted. The temple was consecrated to the Lord and all those who served there and all that was used there in accordance with the law was holy
- In the New Testament, Christian's are the dwelling place of God. We are to be living sacrifices, holy and acceptable. Not sacrifices for the payment of sin – Christ accomplished this once for all at the cross. We are to be living sacrifices that worship and praise Christ and are set apart for his glory.
  - We must not bring into the temple that which is immoral and defiles what God has consecrated for his use.
    - I Corinthians 6:13–20 - <sup>13</sup>“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup> And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

<sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” <sup>17</sup> But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

<sup>18</sup> Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

## Proverbs 5, 6, and 7

Answer these questions as you read through these chapters. Discuss these in your next Table Talk meeting.

1. As a young man, did your father ever warn you about sexual sins? If you are a father with a son, have you or will you instruct your son on this subject? Why is this needed?
2. What are the consequences identified when a man gives in to lustful thoughts and action?
3. What instruction is provided to avoid this sin? What must a man do to preserve himself from the snare of sexual impurity?
4. In chapter 7 a young man is identified. What contributed to his sinful actions (people, place, time of day, etc.)?
5. How do men make foolish decisions today that lead them into the same sinful snare?

### Proverbs

- 5** My son, be attentive to my wisdom;  
incline your ear to my understanding,  
<sup>2</sup> that you may keep discretion,  
and your lips may guard knowledge.  
<sup>3</sup> For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,  
and her speech is smoother than oil,  
<sup>4</sup> but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,  
sharp as a two-edged sword.  
<sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death;  
her steps follow the path to Sheol;  
<sup>6</sup> she does not ponder the path of life;  
her ways wander, and she does not know it.  
<sup>7</sup> And now, O sons, listen to me,  
and do not depart from the words of my mouth.  
<sup>8</sup> Keep your way far from her,  
and do not go near the door of her house,  
<sup>9</sup> lest you give your honor to others  
and your years to the merciless,  
<sup>10</sup> lest strangers take their fill of your strength,  
and your labors go to the house of a foreigner,  
<sup>11</sup> and at the end of your life you groan,  
when your flesh and body are consumed,  
<sup>12</sup> and you say, "How I hated discipline,  
and my heart despised reproof!  
<sup>13</sup> I did not listen to the voice of my teachers

or incline my ear to my instructors.  
14 I am at the brink of utter ruin  
in the assembled congregation.”  
15 Drink water from your own cistern,  
flowing water from your own well.  
16 Should your springs be scattered abroad,  
streams of water in the streets?  
17 Let them be for yourself alone,  
and not for strangers with you.  
18 Let your fountain be blessed,  
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,  
19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe.  
Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;  
be intoxicated always in her love.  
20 Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman  
and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?  
21 For a man’s ways are before the eyes of the LORD,  
and he ponders all his paths.  
22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him,  
and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.  
23 He dies for lack of discipline,  
and because of his great folly he is led astray.

**6** 20 My son, keep your father’s commandment,  
and forsake not your mother’s teaching.  
21 Bind them on your heart always;  
tie them around your neck.  
22 When you walk, they will lead you;  
when you lie down, they will watch over you;  
and when you awake, they will talk with you.  
23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light,  
and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,  
24 to preserve you from the evil woman,  
from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.  
25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart,  
and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;  
26 for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread,  
but a married woman hunts down a precious life.  
27 Can a man carry fire next to his chest  
and his clothes not be burned?  
28 Or can one walk on hot coals  
and his feet not be scorched?  
29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife;

none who touches her will go unpunished.  
30 People do not despise a thief if he steals  
to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry,  
31 but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold;  
he will give all the goods of his house.  
32 He who commits adultery lacks sense;  
he who does it destroys himself.  
33 He will get wounds and dishonor,  
and his disgrace will not be wiped away.  
34 For jealousy makes a man furious,  
and he will not spare when he takes revenge.  
35 He will accept no compensation;  
he will refuse though you multiply gifts.

**7** My son, keep my words  
and treasure up my commandments with you;  
2 keep my commandments and live;  
keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;  
3 bind them on your fingers;  
write them on the tablet of your heart.  
4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"  
and call insight your intimate friend,  
5 to keep you from the forbidden woman,  
from the adulteress with her smooth words.  
6 For at the window of my house  
I have looked out through my lattice,  
7 and I have seen among the simple,  
I have perceived among the youths,  
a young man lacking sense,  
8 passing along the street near her corner,  
taking the road to her house  
9 in the twilight, in the evening,  
at the time of night and darkness.  
10 And behold, the woman meets him,  
dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.  
11 She is loud and wayward;  
her feet do not stay at home;  
12 now in the street, now in the market,  
and at every corner she lies in wait.  
13 She seizes him and kisses him,  
and with bold face she says to him,  
14 "I had to offer sacrifices,  
and today I have paid my vows;

15 so now I have come out to meet you,  
to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.  
16 I have spread my couch with coverings,  
colored linens from Egyptian linen;  
17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh,  
aloes, and cinnamon.  
18 Come, let us take our fill of love till morning;  
let us delight ourselves with love.  
19 For my husband is not at home;  
he has gone on a long journey;  
20 he took a bag of money with him;  
at full moon he will come home.”  
21 With much seductive speech she persuades him;  
with her smooth talk she compels him.  
22 All at once he follows her,  
as an ox goes to the slaughter,  
or as a stag is caught fast  
23 till an arrow pierces its liver;  
as a bird rushes into a snare;  
he does not know that it will cost him his life.  
24 And now, O sons, listen to me,  
and be attentive to the words of my mouth.  
25 Let not your heart turn aside to her ways;  
do not stray into her paths,  
26 for many a victim has she laid low,  
and all her slain are a mighty throng.  
27 Her house is the way to Sheol,  
going down to the chambers of death.

# STBC Men's "Table Talk"

Discussion Guide | February 27, 2021

Lesson Two

**This Week's Theme: God's Man in the Mirror – Called, not for impurity, but in holiness**

**Review and Prayer** (20 minutes)

- Get settled with coffee, juice, donuts, etc.
- Prayer. Share personal praises and prayer updates from past week. Pray together

**Introduction** (30 minutes) - Discuss your reading of Proverbs 5, 6, and 7

- As a young man, did your father ever warn you about sexual sins? If you are a father with a son, have you or will you instruct your son on this subject? Why is this needed?
- What are the consequences identified in Proverbs when a man gives in to lustful thoughts and action?
- What instruction is provided to avoid this sin? What must a man do to preserve himself from the snare of sexual impurity?
- In chapter 7 a young man is identified. What contributed to his sinful actions (people, place, time of day, etc.)
- How do men make foolish decisions today that lead them into the same sinful snare?

**Bible Passage Discussion – Colossians 3:1-17** (60 minutes)

- What does it mean to be raised with Christ and how does this impact what you think about, what you set your mind on?
- What should be put to death within us?
- How are the following sins linking together: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry?
- What encouragement do you find from the statement, "In these you too once walked"?
- What is a man of God to put on and how does this help put to death sexual impurity within us? List these out and identify how you put these into action and how each one of them helps you walk in purity and holiness and be more Christlike.
- If we keep the following statement at the forefront of our thoughts, how will this allow you to ensure purity is a priority? - "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him"

**Recap and Assignments for the week** (10 minutes)

- Resources. I recommend the following resources:
  - Biblical Manhood – Masculinity, Leadership and Decision Making. Author: Stuart Scott. (read the whole book, but especially read the chapter: An Enemy of Biblical Manhood: Lust)
  - Sexual Detox – A guide for guys who are sick of porn. Author: Tim Challies
- Close with prayer

## **Men's Table Talk – Lesson Two – February 2021**

### **Called, not for Impurity, but in Holiness**

#### **Introduction:**

The goal of defeating lust within our lives does not stop at defeating lust. We are called, not for impurity but in holiness. Success in the area of purity is truly loving and pursuing the one who is pure, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The passage we will look at in this lesson (Colossians 3:1-17) deals with the sins of lust in a broader context of loving Christ, his word and loving those within the church. We look to put off lust when we are in Christ and we put on the right mindset of love and service towards others. We put off lust when the word of God lives within us and we worship in harmony with other believers. Putting off lust is more than just halting lustful thoughts and actions, but loving our Lord and setting our mind upon him and for his exaltation.

#### **Key Scripture for Lesson Two:**

Colossians 3:1–17

<sup>1</sup>If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup>In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup>But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### Key points:

- Your position: If you have been raised with Christ know that you have also been crucified with Christ. Your new life is with Christ.
- Your mind: You are now able to set your mind on Christ and all he desires
- Your “clothing”: Put off and Put on
  - We can’t just put off, we also must put on. You don’t do one without the other
- Your purpose: “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”

### Work through the passage with the following questions:

1. What does it mean to be raised with Christ and how does this impact what you think about, what you set your mind on?
  - Paul teaches us in Romans that to be raised with Christ is also to be crucified with Christ.
    - Christ was victorious over sin on the cross.
    - Our sin was paid for by Christ on the cross.
    - We must recognize that sin no longer enslaves us as it once did. Our sinful flesh has received a death sentence through Christ and is now awaiting final execution when we are united with him.
    - In verse 11 he states how we must think, “consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus”
    - We now have the ability, freedom, and responsibility to set our minds on Christ and all that pleases him. This is our new identity.
  - Romans 6:1–11

<sup>6</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

2. What does it mean to “Put to death that which is earthly in you”?
- John Owen says in *Mortification of Sin*, “To ‘mortify’ means to put any living thing to death. To kill a man, or any other living thing, is to take away the principle of all its strength, vigor, and power, so that it cannot act, or exert, or put forth any proper acting of its own. Indwelling sin is compared to a person, a living person, called ‘the old man’, with his faculties, and properties, his wisdom, craft, subtlety, and strength. The ‘old man’ is utterly mortified and slain by the cross of Christ.”
  - Since we continue to live in unglorified bodies, until we are united with Christ, we will continue this battle against the flesh.
    - II Corinthians 5:17 states 2 Corinthians 5:17 - <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
    - Our old nature is dead and the new nature given in Christ lives in the body of flesh temporarily until glorification.
  - John Owen further states, “Do you mortify? Do you make it your daily work? You must always be at it while you live; do not take a day off from this work; always be killing sin or it will be killing you. Your position in Christ, and the new life that you have in Him, does not excuse you from this work.”
    - 1 Corinthians 9:25–27 - <sup>25</sup> Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup> So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
    - Galatians 5:24 - <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
    - Romans 8:13 - <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
3. How are the following sins linked together: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry?
- These sexual sins are related to covetousness and idolatry.
  - Covetousness is a desire to have more and more and to have that which is not rightfully yours. This sin is envious of others. It does not have the best interest of others in mind and seeks to satisfy self.
  - Idolatry is the worship of a false god. It fails to see God as the one and only God to be worshipped.
    - Jesus rejected the devil’s temptation of false worship by using the word of God, “You shall worship the Lord our God, and him only shall you serve.” (Deut. 6:13)
    - Satan is content to have us worship sexuality in place of our creator and redeemer.

- Sexual sins are linked to covetousness and idolatry and violate the greatest of commandments.
    - Matthew 22:37–40 - <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”
4. What encouragement do you find from the statement, “In these you too once walked”?
- The past tense of this passage is extremely encouraging. Our identity has changed and is no longer linked to that which brings death. Our identity is now found in Christ.
  - We not only have the confidence that our sin will be done away with, but we have the power through the Spirit to change today.
  - Consider how we were dead, brought to life, and now are his workmanship for good works.
    - Ephesians 2:1–10 - And **you were dead** in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once **lived in the passions of our flesh**, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> **But God**, being rich in **mercy**, because of the **great love** with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ—by grace** you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and **raised us** up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are **his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should **walk in them**.
5. What is a man of God to put on and how does this help put to death sexual impurity within us? List these out and identify how you put these into action and how each one of them helps you walk in purity and holiness and be more Christlike.
- His action: God’s chosen ones are holy and beloved. God’s sovereignty is seen here in our salvation and upon his call we are set apart to him and recipients of his great love.
  - Our action:
    - Compassionate hearts
    - Kindness

- Humility
- Meekness
- Patience
- Bearing with one another
- Forgiving each other as you have been forgiven
- Above all, put on love
- Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart
- Be thankful
- Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
- Teaching and admonishing one another
- Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
- These character traits in the life of a believer take our eyes off of gratifying the flesh and turn our attention to loving others correctly. These character traits also turn our hearts to our Lord and his word and worshipping him. The idolatry of sinful impurity has no place among these pursuits, we leave no room for lust to sprout up and bear fruit as we “put on” what the Lord commands.

6. If we keep the following statement at the forefront of our thoughts, how will this allow you to ensure purity is a priority? - “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”

- This is a great filter for our mind. If we capture our thoughts and run them through this filter, we will need to make a conscious decision regarding the temptation before us.
- If we truly take the time to evaluate lustful temptations, we recognize that we cannot do this in the “name of the Lord Jesus” and we can’t “give thanks to God the Father” as we pursue sin.
  - We are then in a position to:
 

James 4:7–10 - <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.