

## **Week 4**

### Loveology – Purity & Timing

#### **Intro**

Today we are going to do something that we are not supposed to do. I'm going to hit 2 topics tonight. And furthermore, I'm going to do both badly. I'm not going to do either of the topics justice and that will leave you confused and primed and ready for chat groups.

So, we are going to talk about "God's standard of purity", and "not rushing into a relationship". Gonna be fun.

#### **Context for Purity**

When I have read the Bible for so long, I did not understand the context of it, at all. I just assumed it was this perfect time period, or exactly like mine, or just all castles and dragons or something. BUT, when you understand the context of the time period, you get a lot more out of it. FOR EXAMPLE, 1st Cor. 13 is this beautiful passage about Love and what Love is supposed to be and we read it at weddings and put it on signs and it's so nice. Again, my picture of this, is the church in Corinth gets the letter from Paul, because while it's a book of the Bible for us, it started as a letter. And the Pastor or Elder or someone gets up in front of the church and reads it, and everyone is like "oh yeah, we totally are on track with that. Totally agree. In fact, we've been living like that already."

But Corinth was actually a terrible place! It was a huge prostitution city. Sex was worshiped. It was assumed that you weren't a virgin, and that probably at a young age you would have had sex already. It was commercialized, and people used sex and their bodies as a way to get money. That sounds strangely similar.

Check out this quick clip to give us some more context to the book of 1st Corinthians. (Show Clip) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiHf8klCCc4>

So, while writing to this church he is basically trying to re-define what love is for them!

#### **Meat of Purity**

Look at verses

***Ephesians 5:3a – "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people."***

**1 Cor. 6:18 - Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.**

**Matthew 5:28 - But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

**Galatians 5:19 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,**

**Colossians 3:5 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

So, the question remains. **WHY?** Why does God care. Why does God want us to wait until we are married to have sex? Does God hate us, does he not want us to have fun?

Here's the thing. I could throw stats at you. About how having sex with lots of people is dangerous and it could be harmful to your health. I could parade adult after adult after adult who would beg you to wait, because they didn't, and it messed them up. I could tell you stories of heartache. I could give you science about how it bonds you. I could talk about how human brains don't develop until we are in our 20s and we are making these crazy random choices. I could tell you about people I know that have been hurt, or people that I know that are living with the hurt they caused other people.

But. I don't know if any of that would convince you. Because that's all that was thrown at my generation, and the generation before me, and it didn't seem to help Christians who wanted to do what they wanted to do. The answer, that should be good enough for us, is that the Creator of the World, who is above TIME, and knows everything, and has continually shown over and over throughout the bible that he wants us to live full lives, told us not to. Like, **if you really believe in God, and if you really believe the Bible, then honestly, that should be good enough for us.**

But instead, we get so caught up in "but I want to" and "it's all about me", or "I might be the strange person". But Yahweh, who loves us, and said he wants us to have life and have it to the full, described a way for us to live, and in it, he said, "no sexual immorality". Using words like "flee". And set a standard so high, that "looking at a woman lustfully is considered adultery".

So, you must decide. Who are you going to trust? Are you going to live for yourself, (which has worked so well for so many people...), or are you going to submit yourself to the God of the universe?

**I love how John Mark Comer says it:**

*“It’s all about who you trust. Do you trust that the way of Jesus is the best way to live? Do you trust that what looks like freedom is actually slavery, and “repressing” your sexual desire may just be the best thing to ever happen to you? Do you trust that God’s heart for you is good? That God’s heart for you is joy?”*

## **Timing**

So, there’s that, you can sift that out in your chat/small groups. How about that bomb leaders? You. Are. Welcome!

Next. I want to implore you to just slow down and wait. I’m not telling you to break up with your boyfriend or girlfriend, necessarily...but I am going to ask you to consider what your life has looked like.

So many people rush from one thing to another. From one relationship to another. They have no idea who they are without a significant other. Running from this feeling to that feeling.

## **You are laying your foundation for your life**

We love to rush from thing to thing. The ironic part is that we aren’t really thinking long term, but we also imagine what life will be like in 10 years. And we want to get there. But we forget to put in the time now and build a good foundation in our life.

That’s why I would implore you to be good workers and commit to things. If you have a job, stay at that job, build up your resume, show your loyalty instead of hopping from job to job all the time. Practice commitment.

***Mobilization Moment*** - For example. We have tons of ways for you to serve here at your church. Some people have tried one thing or another for a little bit, but what if you were to say, “I’m going to commit to serving as a greeter twice a month all year”. I’m going to join the parking team. I’m going to serve in Tiny Town. If you start something, finish it. That will do you well! Because how we live now will affect our future!

**Story:** of House in Portland.

So, what is your foundation like? Do you have good roots? Would you date you? Would you marry you? Do you feel like you are following Christ the way you want to?

## **Read Psalm 37**

So, what do I do now? Maybe instead of going out and looking for a relationship, or just kind of falling into each relationship, you lived an intentional life.

What do you think you will look back on in high school and wish you had done? Honestly. When you look back, what will be something you will think “man, I wish I had...”

You know what I don't wish. I don't wish I had dated more. I don't wish I had gone to more parties. Instead, I see faces of people I could have encouraged, but I didn't because I was so focused on what I wanted. I think about the lame effort I made to do a Christian club at my school and how I did it just because I kind of felt like I should.

### **Application - working through Psalm 37**

- **Do Good (v. 3)**
- **Be all in where you are at (Dwell in the land v. 3).** Open your eyes to the needs around you.
- **Enjoy your life (v. 3).** Honestly. That might sound lame, but do awesome things, people, experiences. And if you are always looking for your happiness from other people, you might miss what God has for you.
- **Take Delight in the Lord. (v.4)**
- **Commit Your way to the Lord (v. 5)**
- **Be Still (v.7)** - When was the last time you were still. Like. No phone. No homework. Just being still. People suggest that God is quiet to me all the time. That we don't hear him. I'll tell you something. Yahweh is there but we drown him out with all our noises sometimes. Be still and think about that.
- **Wait for the Lord (v. 7)**

End by talking about David and restoration

## Chat/Small Group Questions

### Purity

- What does our world/culture tell us about sex and dating?
- Do you think it's a big deal to have sex before you are married? Why or why not?
- Why do you think God's standard for purity/sex is so much different than the worlds?
- **Read Ephesians 5:1-7**
  - What are things you notice about this passage?
- Interact with this statement – “If you really believe in God, and if you really believe the Bible, then honestly, that should be good enough for us”

### Timing

- Leaders share about something you wish you had done differently in high school.
- What is something you (students) think you'll regret from high school if you don't change?
- **Read Psalm 37:1-7**
  - What does it look like to?
    - Do Good (v. 3)
    - Be all in where you are at (Dwell in the land v. 3).
    - Enjoy your life (v. 3).
    - Take Delight in the Lord. (Psalm 37:4)
    - Commit Your way to the Lord (v. 5)
    - Be Still (v.7)
    - Wait for the Lord (v. 7)
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