

DISCIPLINE FOR GODLINESS

DISCIPLINE OF PURITY

LESSONS FROM A FALLEN KING (continuation from last week)

Men, if we are Christians, it is imperative that we live pure, godly lives in the midst of our Corinthian, pornotopian culture. We must live above the horrifying statistics or the Church will become increasingly irrelevant and powerless, and our children will leave it. The Church can have no power apart from purity.

This demands that we live out Paul's dictum: **"train yourself to be godly"** — holy sweat!

Memorization

Next, fill yourself with God's Word through the discipline of memorization. Our Lord set the example *par excellence* in rebuffing Satan's temptations with four precise quotations from the Old Testament Scriptures (cf. [Matthew 4:1–11](#)). The Psalmist said, **"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word" (Psalm 119:9)**. And, **"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11)**. Of course, he was referring to all of God's Word, not just the passages which deal with sensuality. Nevertheless, I have seen the disciplined memorization of [1 Thessalonians 4:3–8](#) change a man's life. (Other helpful passages include [Job 31:1](#), [Proverbs 6:27](#), [Mark 9:42](#), [Ephesians 5:3–7](#), and [2 Timothy 2:22](#), some of which are commented upon below.)

Mind

The discipline of the mind is, of course, the greatest of challenges (and will be discussed more fully later in our teaching). And Scripture regularly presents its discipline as a discipline of the eyes. Men, it is impossible for you to maintain a pure mind if you are a television-watching **"couch potato."** In one week you will watch more murders, adulteries, and perversions than our grandfathers read about in their entire lives.

Here is where the most radical action is necessary. Jesus said, **"And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than have two eyes and be thrown into hell" (Mark 9:47)**. No man who allows the rottenness of HBO, R-rated videos, and the various soft-core pornography magazines to flow through his house and mind will escape sensuality!

Bible Study: Discipline for Godliness

Discipleship Series:

Pastor Eddie Idefonso

Job gave us wisdom for our day: **“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl” (Job 31:1)**. How do you think Job would live in our culture today? He understood the wisdom of Proverbs: **“Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?” (Proverbs 6:27)**. Men, Job’s covenant forbids a second look. It means treating all women with dignity — looking at them respectfully. If their dress or demeanor is distracting, look them in the eyes, and nowhere else, and get away as quickly as you can!

The mind also encompasses the tongue (see our discussion later in this teaching), for as Jesus also said, **“For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34)**. Paul is more specific: **“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. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving” (Ephesians 5:3-4)**. There must be no sexual humor, urbane vulgarities, and coarseness, as so many Christians are so prone to do to prove they are not **“out of it.”**