

DISCIPLINE FOR GODLINESS

DISCIPLINE OF PURITY

LESSONS FROM A FALLEN KING (continuation from last week)

Hedges

Men, put disciplined hedges around your life — especially if you work with women. Refrain from verbal intimacy with women other than your spouse. Do not bare your heart to another woman, or pour forth your troubles to her. Intimacy is a great need in most people's lives — and talking about personal matters, especially one's problems, can fill another's need for intimacy, awakening a desire for more. Many affairs begin in just this way.

On the practical level, do not touch. Do not treat women with the casual affection you extend to the females in your family. How many tragedies have begun with brotherly or fatherly touches and then sympathetic shoulders. You may even have to run the risk of being wrongly considered "distant" or "cold" by some women.

Whenever you dine or travel with a woman, make it a threesome. This may be awkward, but it will afford an opportunity to explain your rationale, which, more often than not, will incur respect rather than reproach. Many women business associates will even feel more comfortable dealing with you.

Never flirt — even in jest. Flirtation is intrinsically flattering. You may think you are being cute, but it often arouses unrequited desires in another.

Reality

Be real about your sexuality. Do not succumb to vain gnostic prattle about your being a Spirit-filled Christian who would "never do such a thing!" I well remember a man who indignantly thundered that he was beyond such sin. He fell within months! Face the truth — King David fell, and so can you!

Divine Awareness

Lastly, there is the discipline of divine awareness. This is what sustained Joseph through the temptations of Potiphar's wife. "**How then could I do such a wicked thing,**" he said, "**and sin against God?**" ([Genesis 39:9](#)) — and he fled.

Bible Study: Discipline for Godliness

Discipleship Series:

Pastor Eddie Idefonso

“Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” ([2 Timothy 2:22](#)).

Men, the heat of our culture oppresses us with its obsessions and pornotopias. Many in the Church have wilted. The statistics tell it all. In order not to become part of those statistics, there has to be some disciplined sweat. Are we men enough? Are we men of God? I pray we are!

Food for Thought

“The contemporary evangelical Church, broadly considered, is ‘Corinthian’ to the core. It is being stewed in the molten juices of its own sensuality.” Do you agree or disagree? Concerning your own church? Concerning your own personal life?

“At this moment [of lust] God ... loses all reality.... Satan does not fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God” (**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**). Have you found this true in your own battles with temptation? What is the most effective way to prevent moral lapses?

Is [1 Thessalonians 4:3–8](#) too narrow to consider as binding on Christian men today? Why or why not? If not, how can we put this passage to work so we will be victorious in our fight for purity?

What does God’s holiness have to do with *our* holiness (see [Leviticus 19:2](#))?

Considering the prevalent immorality of our culture, how can we possibly hope to keep our thoughts and behavior pure?

Is the admonition to maintain “**hedges**” in our relationships with the women in our lives really necessary? Isn’t this a putdown of women? Of ourselves?

Application/Response

What did God speak to you about most specifically, most powerfully in this teaching? Talk to Him about it right now!

Think About It!

List at least half a dozen specific, practical applications concerning sexual morality from David’s experience in [2 Samuel 11](#).