

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, February 11, 2018
Pursuing Personal Purity
1: Having These Promises

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 / 2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

For 2018, the Lord told us to emphasize three things: Personal purity, spiritual maturity, supernatural power. These three go together. The outcome of personal holiness and corporate maturity, is a kind of supernatural power not seen since the early church.

As we begin our quest for personal purity, we want to look for how we get there without becoming legalists. We know that is not the intent of the New Covenant, yet the New Covenant emphasizes purity in no uncertain terms. We saw last time that the motivation to pursue purity (or holiness) is the promise of walking in intimacy with the Father.

What the world attacks as insane, Christians have been seeking for 2000 years: We want to hear the voice of God. The number one block to that intimacy is sin. Sin is not just a “mistake” or a “bad decision,” **Sin is a reflection of fallen nature and it breaks God’s heart.**

1) **The Sin Nature**

a) Adam bought us a load of trouble:

- i) Romans 5:12, 17 He brought sin and death into the world
- ii) Jesus brought us into a new economy. Romans 8:2 GNB For the law of the Spirit, which brings us life in union with Christ Jesus, has set me free from the law of sin and death.
- iii) With sin came sickness, poverty, hatred, violence, etc.
- iv) The core issue: Adam’s nature changed from life to death. Form “very good” (Genesis 1:31) to “only evil continually.” Genesis 6:5-6 (6) And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

b) Ephesians 2:1-3. Without Christ, we are children who deserve God’s wrath. We are wrong by nature.

2) **My personal sin**

a) After salvation, we still have the capacity to sin. Ephesians 5:8

b) Sin is

- i) Hamartia- *miss* the mark (and so *not share* in the prize), to fall short of the **design** or purpose.
- ii) *parabasis* - to violate a **command**

c) Our design is the divine nature. Our command is love like Jesus. Everything else is sin. We live what we believe if we want the benefits of what we believe. Romans 14:23b... And anything that is not based on faith is sin.

d) **Sin does damage**

- i) It causes many “emotional” problems. Your flesh is at war with your mind, will and emotions. 1 Peter 2:11
- ii) Bitterness and unforgiveness make God on the inside of you very sad. Ephesians 4:30a NLT And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live.
- iii) Sexual sin specifically invites the Lord to bring correction: 1 Thess 4:3-7 (uncleanness = not pure, the exact opposite.) Romans 1:24 / Eph 4:19 / 2 Corinthians 12:21.
- iv) Sin inhibits faith: 1 John 3:21-23.
- v) Sin hardens the heart and leads to death. James 1:15 (Notice the process of the hardening of the heart. 1 Timothy 4:2 / 1 Corinthians 11:30 / Hebrews 3:12-13)
- vi) Sin brings us into slavery. Jesus died to make us free. Don't fall back into bondage! 1 Corinthians 6:12

3) **God has provided!**

- a) A fix for Adam’s sin: New birth. Jesus death and resurrection made a new life available. John 3:5-6 / Ephesians 2:8-10
- b) An antidote for your personal failures, the blood is still available. The challenge is to admit your sin. 1 John 1:7-10
- c) Power for a life on a trajectory of freedom: Galatians 5:13,16 GNB. As for you, my friends, you were called to be free. But do not let this freedom become an excuse for letting your physical desires control you. Instead, let love make you serve one another. (16) What I say is this: let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature. (25) The Spirit has given us life; he must also control our lives. (6:1-2) My friends, if someone is caught in any kind of wrongdoing, those of you who are spiritual should set him right; but you must do it in a gentle way. And keep an eye on yourselves, so that you will not be tempted, too. (2) Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.