

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, March 11, 2018
Pursuing Personal Purity
5: The Point of No Return

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.

Hebrews 3:12-15

For 2018, the Lord told us to emphasize three things: Personal purity, spiritual maturity, supernatural power. These three go together.

- We pursue purity because it enables intimacy with the Father
- We don't want to be Pharisees
- The unbeliever has the nature of fallen Adam, a son of disobedience.
- The cure for that is faith in and commitment to, the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9
- The sin nature was broken in Christ. You are born again.
- Sin is anything that falls short of the divine nature or violates the commandment of love.
- Sin causes damage and makes you miserable.
- To live free, you must move your center from self to Jesus
- Our "pet sins" hinder our faith and lead us into bondage.
- There is victory for those who will discipline themselves

"Well, I like my indulgence, and I will just put up with the consequences." Hebrews 12:16 Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup.

- 1) One way.
 - a) 70 percent of all Americans believe that many religions can lead to eternal life, including 65 percent of all Christians, and 56 percent of all Evangelical Christians.
 - b) John 14:6 NKJV Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
 - i) The way: Matthew 7:13-14
 - ii) The truth: John 1:17
 - iii) The life: 1 John 5:12
 - c) Jesus dealt with the sin issue. Now the issue is, "What are you gonna do with Jesus?" John 16:8-9. / 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- 2) Habitual sin hardens your heart.

- a) We live under a different system than the world. Col 1:13 / Romans 8:2 / 1 Corinthians 11:31-32
 - b) God corrects His children. Hebrews 12:4-10
 - c) We have the capacity to harden our hearts against Him. That is called rebellion. Hebrews 3:12-15
 - d) Repeated sin in rebellion to His revealed will leads to calloused consciences: 1 Tim 4:1-2
 - e) The danger is eternal: an evil heart of unbelief. Hebrews 3:12 LITV ... withdrawing from the living God.
- 3) Heart surgery:
 - a) Get an honest diagnosis
 - i) Are you withdrawing from God in your heart because you are afraid of what He will say? Heb 3:12
 - ii) Can you do things you know are wrong without feeling? Heb 12:8
 - b) Get honest about the problem:
 - i) God is not tempting you or "allowing" it. You are deceived. James 1:13-15.
 - ii) The behavior of other Christians is no excuse for you. "...forbear one another in love." Eph 4:2
 - iii) People reject the One Way because they love their own way. John 3:19
 - c) You can overcome and live in victory. 1 Corinthians 10:13 / 2 Corinthians 12: 9
 - d) Surgery for the hardened heart: scar tissue must be removed. 1 Timothy 1:18-19
 - i) The hard heart requires something to motivate change.
 - ii) The process must be undertaken by faith: obeying the written word with no feelings to go by. **Faith first, then feelings.**
 - iii) The restoration of a good conscience restores the believer to confidence before God and men. A hardened heart is faithless, agitated, irritable, without worship, can't hear God.
 - e) There is a place of permanent deception. What will **you** do with Jesus? If this rings true for you, turn it around NOW!