

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, March 4, 2018
Pursuing Personal Purity
4: Victory Beyond Forgiveness

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.

So far:

- 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

1) Sin inhibits faith:

- a) Boldness is rooted in a sense of righteousness. Sin destroys that.
- b) Jesus has made a way to the throne for us. Ephesians 3:12
- c) Faith comes in boldly. Hebrews 4:16
- d) Guilt is a faith - killer 1 John 3:21-23.
- e) Romans 1:17 – you will live by faith. Sin hinders faith.
- f) When you miss it, deal with it right then and get over it. Do not pet it, excuse it, or deny it. It makes a difference 1 John 1:9 Fess up, clean up, stand up.

2) Sin brings us into slavery. Romans 6:12, 15-16

- a) 1 Corinthians 6:12 NLT "I must not become a slave to anything.
- b) 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 slavery hinders my ability to help others
- c) **Habitual sin**, the kind that repeats itself in the misery cycle: of acting out, pain and shame and remorse, a period of

dormancy/complacency (OK, I got this, Thank You, Jesus), triggers (events, emotions, thoughts), rationalization, fantasizing, planning, then away we go again.

3) There is Victory beyond forgiveness

- a) Who do you want to serve? Romans 6:12 Wuest Stop therefore allowing the sinful nature to reign as king in your mortal body with a view to obeying it in its passionate cravings
- b) 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT
 - i) Run to win – Why be half-hearted in the most important thing in your life? (If following Jesus is not the most important thing in your life, what is? That is your god)
 - ii) Disciplined training is part of winning:
 - (1) Discipline means doing what you don't feel like doing, and not doing what you do feel like doing. "I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.'" – Muhammad Ali
 - (2) If you can't discipline yourself, you will need help.
 - (3) Christian disciplines include Prayer, Bible reading/study, Worship, Reflection/journaling, Silence/solitude/meditation, Fellowship with serious believers, Works of Christian service
 - iii) Focus on Positive motivation: There are rewards for winning your race. Ours are eternal, not temporal. Well done, or drop and roll? 2 Timothy 4:8 / Matthew 25 / 1 Corinthians 3:11-15
 - iv) Train with purpose: This is not an online game. It is real.
 - v) Discipline your body. Take steps of self-denial to train your body to obey your spirit.
 - i) Recognize the stakes: Paul is talking about preaching to others, then not winning his own race. Wuest: *adokimos*,: "disapproved." Not a loss of salvation, but a loss of reward.

“Let us be among those who believe that the inner transformation of our lives is a goal worthy of our best effort”

— Richard J. Foster