

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, February 25, 2018
Pursuing Personal Purity
3: Damage Control

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 problem for the unbeliever is the nature of fallen Adam, a son of disobedience.
- The cure for that problem is faith in and commitment to, the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9
- The sin nature was broken in Christ. You are no longer of you Father the devil.
- Anything that falls short of the divine nature or violates the commandment of love is sin for you.
- Sin causes damage.

1) Commandments 1 and 1A.

- a) Jesus, speaking to Old Covenant men, answered the question: Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses? Jesus: love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' And 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
- b) Under the New Covenant we have 1 and 1 A also
 - i) Romans 10:9. Jesus is Lord
 - (1) Salvation is not agreement with a theological proposition. It is a personal commitment to follow a Risen Savior in every aspect of life:
 - (2) When I make a decision to act on impulses contrary to what I believe to be the will of the Lord, I have lapsed into idolatry – serving something or someone other than Jesus.
 - ii) John 13:34-35. Love with the love of Christ.
 - (1) This kind of love is not an emotion.

(2) I make decisions based on the Word, the leading of the Spirit, and consideration of the maximum benefit to others.

2) Sin makes you miserable!

- a) For the believer, whose heart is created in the image of God and who has the Holy Spirit on the inside, sin doesn't ever bring joy. 1 Peter 2:11
- b) Making money is OK. Making money your God is not. Decisions based solely on money cause grief.: 1 Timothy 6:9-10
- c) Allowing yourself to be surrounded by ungodliness without speaking out leads to torment. 2 Peter 2:7-8 / Proverbs 25:26 / 1 Corinthians 15:33
- d) Proverbs 15:13 "A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken." This is brokenness that comes from habitual defeat caused by habitual sin and idolatry - God heals this kind of brokenness Ps 147:3
- e) You can't just sit around and lament how bad it is, or how bad you are. Condemnation and self-flagellation are self-centered **YOU HAVE TO MOVE YOUR CENTER!!!!**

3) Moving from self-centered to Jesus-centered

- a) Romans 12:1-3
 - i) V. 1. Present your body: It does not belong to you. 1 Cor 6:19:20. It is God's to use and repair. As long as you own your body, you can never get free of its passions.
 - ii) V. 2. Get serious about changing your thinking. If you are conformed to the world you get to enjoy only what the world provides. Thoughts produce feelings, whether they are true or not. The fight is in the thought life.
 - iii) V. 3. Shut up, get up, and serve somebody.
- b) James 1:21-22 GNB So get rid of every filthy habit and all wicked conduct.
 - i) You know what that is!!!!!! It leaves you feeling dirty, guilty, hoping no one knows.
 - ii) The word that has entered you heart is there waiting to save (make whole) your soul – mind, will and emotions.
 - iii) The key is to be not a reader, a sayer, or a discussor, but a doer of the word you have heard.