

## WORKSHEET: CHAPTER 16

### *PURITY*

Purity is a belief - in who God is and who I am in Christ - married to an action. It is about learning what the Scriptures have to say about how I am to live and then choosing to live with intentionality. Praise God, we get to decide every day if we are going to be hearers only of God's Word or hearers who are also doers (Matthew 7).

Purity is also about how we live both in private and in public. As you work through specific issues relating to purity of your mind, your body and your sexual self, choose to live in such a way that blesses others in the body of Christ. The discipline of exhortation (fellowship) is about living with meaning and purpose as we walk in holiness and in community.

Notice, too, how some issues of purity become less of a monumental struggle when we turn our attention (and our energy) first to God and then to serving and loving others.

### **DISCIPLINE OF EXHORTATION (FELLOWSHIP) - DEFINITIONS OF TYPES OF FELLOWSHIP:** (italic definitions from Webster's online)

**EXHORTATION:** *to urge earnestly by advice, warning; admonish strongly; commend*

To exhort is to plead, to urge insistently, to be single-minded and enthusiastic. It is the act of desiring someone's best by pointing them urgently toward the things of God. It is standing in the gap for someone who is weary and cheering them on. It is more than encouragement; it is a firm but loving word intended to focus the brother or sister back toward their first love.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24 & 25

**TRAINING:** *to guide the growth of; to instruct so as to make proficient or qualified; to prepare*

To train someone is to pour into them the truths of God. It is to enable them, with the strong foundation of God's Word, to build their lives upon the Rock of Jesus so that they can live lives pleasing to Him and teach others also what they have learned.

and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2

**CORRECTION:** *a change that corrects a mistake (sin); change from wrong to right; to make right; to point out or mark the errors in order to change course*

To correct someone is to stand alongside of them and point out a wrong decision or a continuous sin in their lives for the sole purpose of loving them back to the truth. It must be done in the spirit of humility lest we too fall. "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."

(Galatians 6:1) Correction may be one of the least practiced and most needed aspects of fellowship. It is not a loving thing to leave someone in their sin. It may cost you in the short term, but a gentle rebuke - truth spoken in love - is the most loving and gracious thing you can do for a brother or sister in Christ who is drowning in their sin or suffering from a loss of perspective.

addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.  
Ephesians 5:19 - 21

**ENCOURAGEMENT:** *to give courage, hope or confidence to; embolden; hearten; to give support to; to be favorable for*

Though similar to an exhortation, encouragement practices the act of shoring up or coming alongside of someone for a period of time to help bear the weight of their burden. It is very personal and intimate when practiced with humility. It is what binds our hearts together in Christ. Everyone needs encouragement. If you don't need it today, you will tomorrow. That makes it an act of fellowship that is continually being practiced on one another. Today, I have the word of courage you need; tomorrow, you give it back to me as I need. One member of the Body serving another member of the Body, and God is glorified in our hearts of unity and love.

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

**REPROOF:** *the act of reproof; rebuke; to refute; disprove*

This is more than correction for a sin; it is a refuting of a wrong belief or a stubborn refusal to turn from a false teaching. This is practiced on a more limited basis than correction. It requires a great deal of prayer, preparation and discernment. As 1 Thessalonians 5:14 shows us, you must discern if someone is ignorant (help the weak), discouraged (encourage the fainthearted) or rebellious (admonish the idle). If rebellious (an entrenched pattern of sin, denial of truth), then reproof or rebuke is the necessary course correction. Remember our example from Paul in Philemon as you prayerfully consider whether someone requires a reproof or rebuke. Paul preferred to appeal to his brother before he took the next step of rebuke. If you have not come alongside someone to first exhort or correct, the hammer of rebuke (unless it is an issue of timing or urgency) is probably too harsh and not yet needed. If, however, you have exhorted, encouraged, trained and corrected to no avail, then rebuke would be the next step. (For more study on this, go to Matthew 18 to see how Jesus described the process of rebuke.)

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 1 Thessalonians 5:14

**EDIFICATION:** *to build up; to instruct in such a way as to improve, enlighten, uplift morally or spiritually; establish*

To edify is to strengthen, to prepare and to establish so that a brother or sister in Christ can grow in his/her walk to the glory of God. It is about taking what God has poured into you and passing it along to another. In that act of fellowship (the sharing of ourselves with one another), the entire body is strengthened, including ourselves. It is about ties that bind.

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen 1 Peter 4:7 - 11

What a privilege it is to be charged by God with the task of building one another up. The joy that comes from toiling in that field is one beyond measure or comprehension. When you look into the eyes of someone, into whom you have been pouring yourself, and you see the joy of the Lord as their strength, it is a prize beyond description. We do not live in isolation. We live in community. We belong to one another. We are charged with preparing one another for the day of accountability. We are blessed by Jesus, our Head, to be a part of His Body, the Church.

### **PRACTICE THE DISCIPLINE OF EXHORTATION (FELLOWSHIP):**

You are charged with a simple and essential task in practicing the discipline of exhortation. Choose someone with whom to meet this next week for the purpose of exhorting, encouraging, correcting, edifying or training him or her. Make a date for that expressed purpose. Don't be afraid to communicate to the individual that that is what you are doing. Model intentionality, one to another.

Then, journal your experiences. Make sure to take note of your natural inclinations and notice how God is helping you to use your talents and abilities to bless the body of Christ.