

Dgroup Discussion Guide for February 25, 2018

Flee Immorality

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Immorality refers to any sexual act or promiscuity outside the context of marriage as defined as the union of one man and one woman for life. This means selling off, surrendering, or compromising one's sexual purity. It is also idolatry of self, that is to do "what feels good".

According to the Bible, one way to stop immorality is to flee from it. To do so is not a suggestion or an option but an active command. More so, it is not something that can be done for us. Rather we need to take responsibility for it in obedience to God.

Joseph versus David

(Genesis 39) Joseph, after being sold into slavery, became a trusted servant of Potiphar, his master. Joseph prospered and excelled in all that he did because the Lord was with him. He proved to be a man of character, intelligence and leadership skills. Other than this he was young, strong and handsome. So during his stay at Potiphar's household, Potiphar's wife looked at him with desire and in several occasions tried to seduce him to lie with her. But Joseph remained steadfast and continued to refused Mrs Potiphar's advances. He did not listen to her, avoided being alone with her and finally when she became aggressive, he ran away from her. He chose to be put in prison rather than to give in to immoral acts.

Joseph had the right perspective. He did not give in to the seductive advances not because he was thinking of his reputation, not because he would lose the trust of his master but ultimately because he did not want to sin against God. Instead of compromising and rationalizing immorality, Joseph ran away.

It was because of his fear of losing God's presence in his life that God continued to favor him and bless him.

(2 Samuel 11) David, on the other hand, remained in Jerusalem rather than go into battle with his men. It was on the day that he opted to stay home that when he was walking he came across the beautiful Bathsheba bathing. He could have chosen to turn around and avoid temptation but instead he started to inquire about the woman. Later, he had her brought to him and he lay with her.

Sometimes immorality begins when we are in a place where should not be. After David gave in to the temptation of immorality, he had problem after problem. Bathsheba became pregnant, then he had to have Uriah killed. It just became a cascade of sin spiraling downward.

We have to always remember that our choices have consequences. These consequences we will never be able to run away from. And eventually the truth will be known.

Why flee immorality?

Immorality is a sign against our own body which refers to the whole system of our being – physical body, emotions, mind, and soul. Immorality which includes pornography because sexually explicit material casts unforgettable memories in the mind and triggers mirror neurons in the brain.

It is not easy nor is it simple to flee from immorality but we should strive to do so. Why?

1. Immorality is a uniquely devastating sin.

There is no sin like immorality. The Bible depicts the relationship of Christ to the church as husband and wife (2 Corinthians 11:2), our spiritual union with Christ requires intimacy with Him, like that of marriage. (Ephesians 5:31-32). God invented sex as a profound experience of intimacy only to be enjoyed in the context of marriage. That is why when sex is misused and abused, it brings about devastating results.

2. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

The immoral person sins against his own body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. A temple is a place regarded with reverence because of who dwells in it. When we are walking in the Spirit, the promise of God is, we will not carry out the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-19), but instead we will live with the fruits of the Spirit (v 22-23). It is not easy but the Spirit will empower us if we live a Spirit-filled life moment to moment.

3. We have been bought with a price.

The principle is, we no longer own ourselves since we have been bought for a price (1 Corinthians 6:20). If you have thoughts of impurity, then we are compromising ourselves.

What are some ways we can FLEE from Immorality?

1. Flee from any place where sex is available.
2. Refuse all sexual advances from anyone.
3. Avoid being alone in a car with the opposite sex.
4. Avoid dining alone with the opposite sex.
5. Avoid being in dark places with the opposite sex.
6. Avoid counselling the opposite sex.
7. Avoid emotionally involved communication (phone, text, email etc) with the opposite sex.
8. Flee from pornography.

Immorality is a deadly landmine that threatens to ruin people's lives regardless of age, gender or status. It can blow a marriage apart; for singles it threatens to cripple the enjoyment of their future married life.

The consistent filling of the Holy Spirit is vital and indispensable to be all God wants us to be and to do all God wants us to do. A Spirit-filled life should be the normal Christian life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. According to 1 Corinthians 6:15-17, why is sexual immorality such a devastating sin?
2. Because immorality need not be physical, have you ever fallen into immorality or have fled the temptation to fall into immorality? Share/ discuss
3. What can you do with your family to help them avoid falling into the snare of immorality.

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.