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The purpose of First Baptist Church of Fort Worth is to *introduce* people into a loving relationship with Jesus, *instruct* them in spiritual growth through God's Word, *inspire* them to serve for God's kingdom, and *incorporate* them in authentic worship to glorify God.

Foreword by Mike Neal

As we observe the society around us, we are confronted daily with different beliefs and perspectives; everyone has an opinion which seems right unto them. People often wonder which view is correct and the one by which we ought to live. Society, however, wrongly proclaims that every view is equally valid and depends upon the perspective of the individual. If this perspective were true, then right and wrong would not exist and our society would be in utter chaos because people could do, say, and justify any action without consequence. To some extent, we have entered a period of chaos and immorality which can be seen in the disrespect for authority (public officials, police, educators, and even parents), disregard for human life (terrorism, abortion, murder, and unfettered violence), and debauchery of sexual perversion (adultery, unbiblical divorce, homosexuality, pre-marital relationships, sexual harassment, and gender confusion) which we hear and see almost daily in many forms in the world.

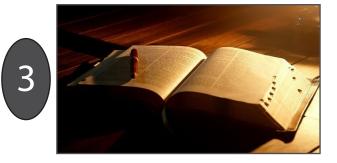
As followers of Christ, however, we know that truth exists regardless of whether mankind believes it or not. The Bible contains that truth by which we must live—not merely in a set of "rules," but boundaries that God has designated in order for us to have the most abundant and successful life possible. Jesus, consequently, declares, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). The thief robs us of the joy of life because the path that he espouses leads to destruction. The book of Proverbs rightly captures the problem in our society when it states: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov 14:12). As a just, yet loving God, the Lord has provided a way that we can have life

through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross and His resurrection three days after being buried. The life that Christ offers us will dramatically transform us so that we seek daily to become more like Him—even though at times we may fall short of that goal.

Throughout the month of January, we will be on a journey together in all our adult Connect Classes to learn what the Bible states about the transformed lives that we ought to live and perspectives which we ought to hold. Every Sunday, we will meet for a time of discussion in the sanctuary at 9:30 am led by the pastoral staff so that as the body of Christ we can understand the new life and new view to which Christ has called us. Although the staff will be reiterating the position of the church on controversial issues today, we must understand that the church's position must reflect the biblical position as outlined in the Word of God. Our views, therefore, should not be influenced by our personal preferences or opinions, but what the inerrant and infallible Word of God says.

We encourage each of you to be present every Sunday so that you will learn how to respond to a world dominated by the four issues that we will discuss. It is important for us to encourage and strengthen one another as well as to equip ourselves for a spiritual battle in a fallen world that seeks to obstruct our walk with Christ. During this time as you study these issues, you may have questions that arise. Please write them down and send them via e-mail or in person to Mike Neal (*mikeneal@fbcfw.org*). We will try to answer as many of your questions as possible, knowing that we all face various kinds of struggles with these various issues.

January Daily Devotionals





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January 7, 2018

The Importance of a Biblical Worldview

January 14, 2018

Secular Government & Christian Responsibility

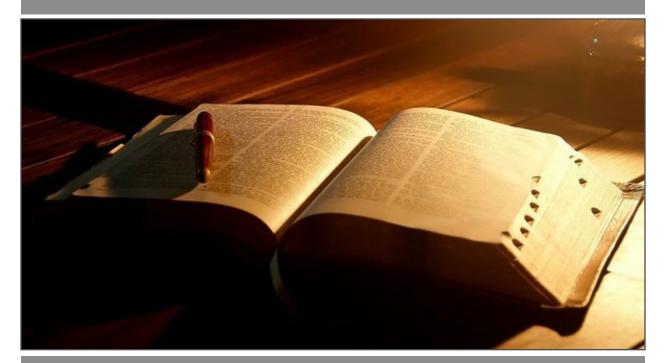
January 21, 2018

The Sanctity of Life

January 28, 2018

Sexual Purity in a Fallen World

January 7, 2018



The Importance of a Biblical Worldview

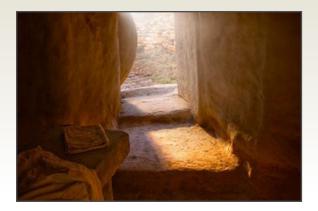
Focal Verse:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16 This week we will discuss the importance of a biblical worldview in light of a diverse culture which has no sense of absolute truth. The Bible is the sole source of information about salvation and contains the prescription for how we should live; therefore, the Bible, not man's opinion or outlook, is how we should judge every area of our lives. Since it contains God's Word which is absolutely true and without error, we must not only know what Scripture says, but also apply it to our lives. Therefore, this week we will learn the purpose of the Bible in informing us how to have eternal life and instructing us how to live after we have experienced the transforming grace of Christ. Consequently, the Bible prescribes that we imitate Christ and walk as He did here on the earth, striving for perfection. When we imitate Christ, it produces wisdom, righteousness, and helps us to avoid sin in our lives—especially when we internalize God's Word, meditating on and memorizing it, so that we might apply it in our daily walk with Him. In a world in which every person does what is right in his or her own eyes, it is of utmost important that we know the truth found in the Bible and walk by it as loyal followers of Christ.

The Proclamation of Scripture







Outline

Sunday:

The <u>Purpose</u> of the Bible: *Inform* (Salvation)

Monday:

The Purpose of the Bible: Instruct (Walk)

Tuesday:

The Prescription of the Bible: Imitate (Christ)

Wednesday:

The Product of the Bible: Illumination (Wisdom)

Thursday:

The **Product** of the Bible: Integrity (Righteousness)

Friday:

The Product of the Bible: Inhibiting Sin

Saturday:

The <u>Practice</u> of the Bible: *Internalization* (Meditation)

Sunday:

The <u>Purpose</u> of the Bible: *Inform* (Salvation)

Read the following passages which discuss the purpose of Scripture in revealing salvation unto us and answer the related questions.

Read 2 Timothy 3:15:

1) What does the Scripture make known unto us?

Read John 5:37-40 & 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:

2) Based on John 5:37-38, why do people reject Jesus?

3) Based on John 5:39, to what do the Scriptures testify?

4) Based on John 5:39a and 40, what do the Scriptures inform us that we can have through Christ?

5) Based on 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, to what two events did the Old Testament point?

Read Matthew 5:17:

6) What was Jesus' purpose in coming to earth?

Using Scripture, write down God's plan for salvation in your own words:

Monday:

The <u>Purpose</u> of the Bible: *Instruct* (Walk)

Read 2 Timothy 3:13-17 and answer the following about the purpose of Scripture in instructing us how to live.

1) In what ways do you see our society being deceived (v. 13)? How does our society deceive others? In what ways does reading and knowing the Bible keep us from being deceived?

2) Why is it important to teach Scripture to our children and grandchildren (vv. 14-15a)?

3) What does it mean that Scripture is profitable for:

I) doctrine?

II) reproof?

III) correction?

IV) instruction?

Tuesday:

The Prescription of the Bible: Imitate (Christ)

Read Ephesians 5:1, Philippians 2:5, & Hebrews 12:1-2 and answer the following questions:

1) Who should we imitate? What does it mean that we should imitate Him?

2) Whose attitude or mind should we imitate? What does it mean to have an attitude or mind like His?

3) How does the attitude and lifestyle of the world differ from that of Christ? Why do some Christians' attitudes and lifestyles reflect more of the world than Christ?

4) What must we do to have an attitude and lifestyle more like that of Christ?

Wednesday:

The Product of the Bible: Illumination (Wisdom)

Read the following passages which discuss how one of the by-products of Scripture is the illumination of wisdom.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-8:

1) Based on 1 Corinthians 2:2, what is the most central element of Scripture? Why?

2) How does Paul differentiate between the wisdom of this age and the wisdom of God? If the Bible contains the wisdom of God, why should we trust it above everything else?

Read Proverbs 14:2:

3) To what does the wisdom of the world lead? Though this verse doesn't mention it, to what does the wisdom of God lead?

Read Romans 7:7:

4) What does the law (Scripture) reveal unto us?

Read Psalm 119:105-112:

5) How is the Bible a lamp which lights our path?

Thursday:

The <u>Product</u> of the Bible: *Integrity* (Righteousness)

Read the following passages which discuss how one of the by-products of Scripture is the integrity or righteousness.

Read Leviticus 19:2 & Matthew 5:48:

1) In what ways do these two verses say that we should imitate the Lord?

Read Romans 8:1-8:

2) Who helps us to fulfill the obligations of the Law (Scripture)?

3) Based on this passage, compare and contrast walking in the Spirit versus walking in the flesh.

Friday:

The Product of the Bible: Inhibiting Sin

Read the following passages which discuss how Scripture helps us to avoid sin and falling into temptation.

Read Psalm 119:9-16:

1) What does it mean to hide the Word of God in our hearts (119:11)?

2) How does the Word of God help us not to sin against Him?

3) How does this Psalm describe the way in which we should seek the Lord?

Saturday:

The <u>Practice</u> of the Bible: *Internalization* (Meditation)

Read the following passages which show our responsibility as christians to know the truth and avoid error.

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-4:

1) Why should we be ready to preach or proclaim the Word of the Lord at any moment?

2) In what way does our society gather teachers or information according to their own desires?

Read Acts 2:42:

3) How often should we study the Word of the Lord? Why is it important to do it with this frequency?

Read Psalm 119:15:

4) What does it mean to meditate on God's Word? How often do you meditate on God's Word and seek His understanding?

January 14, 2018



Secular Government & Christian Responsibility

Focal Verse:

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Romans 13:1

We live in a politically volatile nation in which two widely divergent parties with contrasting viewpoints cannot seem to govern amicably to benefit the citizens of this country. Many in this country have lost respect for the political offices and some have withdrawn from any type of government participation altogether because they see the situation as hopeless. Yet, the Bible has much to say regarding how Christians ought to relate to the secular government. The Bible commands us to submit by obeying its laws, praying for its leadership and legislation, paying taxes, and respecting our leaders—even if we may not agree with them. Moreover, we ought to serve in the government by holding political office and serving with integrity. Although the government is God-ordained, its human rulers have free choice and can err in their decisions; therefore, we ought to follow God's law and spurn (reject) any human law or practice that defies and breaks God's law contained within the pages of Scripture. This week we will discuss the biblical view on how we ought to relate to the government—having a clear mandate which God has outlined for us in His Word.

Participating in Government







Outline

Sunday:

Submit to the Government through Obedience

Monday:

Submit to the Government through Prayer

Tuesday:

Submit to the Government by Paying Taxes

Wednesday:

Submit to the Government by Respecting the Leadership

Thursday:

Serve in the Government by Holding Office

Friday:

Serve in the Government with Integrity

Saturday:

Spurn the Government for Defying God's Law

Sunday:

Submit to the Government through Obedience

Read Romans 13:1-7 and answer the following questions:

1) In verses 1-2, what does it say that God's relationship is to the government?

2) According to this passage, why should we obey the government?

3) What is the purpose of the government as outlined in verses 4-5?

4) What current legislation is in the government (both state and national) which we as Christians ought to be aware?

Monday:

Submit to the Government through Prayer

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8 and answer the following questions:

1) For whom should we pray and for what should we pray?

2) What specific things can you pray for our government right now?

3) What is God's desire for all people?

When Paul explains that we should pray "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence," he is referring to the spread of the gospel; thus, we are to pray that the government would not hinder the proclamation of the gospel.

4) Name some areas over the past fifty years the government has tried to limit the gospel. How can we respond to these attempts to limit the proclamation of the gospel?

Tuesday:

Submit to the Government by Paying Taxes

Read Matthew 22:15-22 and answer the following questions:

1) What are the Pharisees' charges against Jesus in Matthew 22:15-17? How do their accusations go against the instruction from the Bible which we have studied thus far?

2) What does Jesus mean when He says, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

3) Why is it important to give both our tithe and taxes?

Read Romans 13:6-7 and answer the following questions:

4) Why should we pay our taxes according to Paul's teaching in Romans 13:6-7?

5) For what should the government use the taxes that it collects?

6) Why is it still not optional to pay taxes if we don't agree with how the government is spending them?

Wednesday:

Submit to the Government by *Respecting the Leadership*

Read Romans 13:7 and answer the following questions:

1) What does Paul mean when he states that we are to give "fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor?"

2) Why are we to respect the office of the leader even if we disagree with them?

3) In what ways do you see people disrespecting leadership in this country in general? Leaders can be politicians, judges, police officers, etc.

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17 and answer the following questions: 4) What is the purpose of government as outlined in verses 13-14?

5) According to Peter, what is the will of God in verse 15?

6) Who are we to love and honor? What does it mean to show honor? How can we show honor to those in our government even if we disagree with them?

Thursday:

Serve in the Government by Holding Office

Read Daniel 1:19-21 and answer the following questions:

1) In what ways did Daniel and his friends distinguish themselves from the others in the king's court?

2) Based on Scripture, in what ways do we gain wisdom? (Hint: Use your concordances.)

Read Daniel 2:48-49, 4:28-30, & 6:1-2 and answer the following questions:

3) In each of these stories, why was Daniel and/or his friends promoted to positions in the government? (Note: You may need to read more of the context in these chapters if you don't remember the details of the stories.)

4) How does 5:11 characterize Daniel? Why is it important for us also to be characterized in this way?

5) Why do we need more Christian politicians in this country—not those in mere name, but those who have a relationship with the Lord?

Friday:

Serve in the Government with Integrity

<u>Read Daniel 6:3-9</u> and answer the following questions:

1) How did Daniel distinguish himself from the other leaders in Babylon?

2) When the other leaders tried to find fault in Daniel, what did they discover?

3) What was the only charge that could be brought against Daniel?

4) Why should we have integrity in our lives? How would integrity or lack thereof affect us if we run for political office?

5) In what ways have you seen a lack of integrity in our government today? How has this hurt their ability to govern? Saturday:

Spurn the Government for *Defying God's Law*

Read Daniel 1:8-14 and answer the following questions:

1) Why is it important for us to purpose in our hearts (that is—know what we would do) beforehand if we are faced with a challenge to follow God's will or law?

2) Why is it important to follow God's will or law above man's?

Read Daniel 3:14-18 and answer the following questions:

3) Why were the three young Jewish men thrown into the fiery furnace?

4) How did they respond to King Nebuchadnezzar when he confronted them?

5) How should we respond to idolatry and persecution in our own day?

Read Daniel 6:10-15 and answer the following questions:

6) In Daniel 6:10, the text clearly indicates that he knew the legislation against praying to anyone but the king had passed. What legislation being considered in either the state or national government may affect our lives in the future?

7) Knowing the consequences of defying the government, Daniel still prayed openly as was his custom from early days. Even though we may face consequences, how should we respond when the government defies God's law?

8) What is the current legislation in either the state or national government that contradicts God's law? In what ways can you still openly, but civilly indicate your disdain for unbiblical laws? If someone confronts you, how would you respond?

January 21, 2018



The Sanctity of Life

Focal Verse:

"For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.

Luke 9:56

Prolific violence pervades our society not only through the gratuitous fictional violence we see daily on television and movies, but also the tremendous disregard for human life that has spilled into our streets through murder and terrorism. Although murder has been around since the first siblings, Cain and Abel, in recent years the disregard and desensitization of life from the moment of conception to elderly or chronically ill people who have been disregarded and abandoned by the medical system has exacerbated the problem. To God, all life matters from before conception to the last breath He allows us to take before calling us into eternity. In fact, life matters so much to God that He sent the Messiah, His Son, to pay the penalty for our sins through His death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave. For those of us who have a relationship with Christ, we are called to live lives that honor Him and value those created in His image. Although people may callously take life through senseless violence whether by attacking innocent people in church, at a concert, on a bicycle path, or through aborting unwanted or unplanned children, we can still find comfort and hope in Christ who will give us a new perspective on life because when He transforms us we will see the world through His eyes.









Outline

Sunday:

The Origin of Life begins at Conception

Monday:

The Value of Life is Given by God

Tuesday:

The Length of Life is Determined by God

Wednesday:

The Penalty for Taking Life is Assessed by God

Thursday:

All Life Matters to God

Friday:

Eternal Life Comes from God

Saturday:

A Life Lived for God

Sunday:

The Origin of Life begins at Conception

Read Jeremiah 1:5, Job 31:15, & Isaiah 44:2 and answer the following question:

1) Based on these verses, when does God consider life to begin?

Read Psalm 139:13-16 and answer the following questions:

2) What does Psalm 139 state as God's role in reproduction / birth?

3) Biologically, how could we explain the phrase "your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed?"

Read Job 10:9-12 and answer the following questions:

4) Before medical advancements and the invention of the microscope, how do verses 10-11 describe the process of reproduction from conception to birth?

5) Based on Job 10:10 which describes reproduction at conception, how should we respond to the question when does life begin?

Read Exodus 21:22-24 and answer the following question:

6) What is the penalty for killing a pregnant woman? What is our law in Texas / US concerning killing a pregnant woman?

Monday:

The Value of Life is Given by God

Read Psalm 139:14 & Jeremiah 29:1 and answer the following question:

1) What do these verses assert about the value of life?

Read Luke 9:56 & John 10:10 and answer the following questions: 2) What do both of these verses say about the value of life?

3) Who gives life value, particularly based on John 10:10?

Read Matthew 6:25-34 & Romans 5:5-8 and answer the following questions:

4) Based on Matthew 6:25-34, how much does God value our lives?

5) In both Matthew and Romans, in what ways does God demonstrate that He values our lives?

Tuesday:

The Length of Life is Determined by God

Read Genesis 6:3, Job 14:5, & Psalm 139:16 and answer the following questions:

1) What does God say about the length of our lives in Genesis 6:3?

2) What do Job 14:5 and Psalm 139:16 say about our number of days?

Read Exodus 20:12, John 21:18, & 1 Timothy 5:3 and answer the following questions:

3) In what ways do we show honor to our parents, especially as they age (Exodus 20:12)?

4) In John 21:18, how does it allude to the care of the aged in society?

5) Base on 1 Timothy 5:3, whose responsibility is it to care for relatives whether elderly, widowed, or destitute?

Wednesday:

The Penalty for Taking Life is Assessed by God

Read Genesis 9:6, Exodus 20:13, 21:12, Numbers 35:16-17, & Deuteronomy 19:11-12 and answer the following questions:

1) What does Exodus 20:13 clearly prohibit?

2) What does the Bible say is the penalty for taking the life of another human being?

Based upon the previous lesson on government, **<u>re-read Romans 13:1-5</u>** and answer the following questions:

3) What is the responsibility of the human government (i.e. particularly in the legislation of laws and punishment)?

4) What did we say in the previous lesson that our responsibility to the government is as followers of Christ?

Thursday:

All Life Matters to God

Read Acts 10:34-35 & Romans 2:11-16 and answer the following questions:

1) Based on Acts 10:34, what does it mean that God "shows no partiality?" How does this apply in the story of Cornelius who is a Gentile?

2) In Acts 10:35, who is accepted by God and why are they accepted by Him?

3) In Romans 2:11-16, what does it mean that "there is no partiality with God?"

4) How does God judge any person on earth according to Romans 2:12-13? Based on your knowledge of Scripture, what is the only way that we can escape this judgment?

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5) Why do Jews and Gentiles have no excuse for not having a relationship with the Lord (vv. 14-16)?

Read 1 Timothy 2:4 & 1 Peter 3:9 and answer the following questions:

6) According to 1 Timothy 2:4, what does Paul say about God's plan or desire for salvation? Who can be saved?

7) According to 1 Peter 3:9, why is God longsuffering and what does He wish people would do?

Friday: <u>Eternal Life</u> Comes from God

Read John 3:1-21 and answer the following questions:

1) What does it mean to be born again?

2) Based on verses 15 and 16, how can we have eternal life?

3) Why do people stand condemned according verses 17-20?

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Romans 6:23 & 1 John 5:11-13 and answer the following questions:

4) What is the penalty for sin described in Romans 6:23 and what does God offer?

5) Based on 1 John 5:11-13, how can we know that we have eternal life?

Read Acts 4:12 & John 14:6 and answer the following question:

6) What is the only way in which we can have salvation or a relationship with the Father?

Saturday:

A Life Lived for God

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and answer the following question:

1) What does it mean to "be a new creation" and that "old things have passed away?"

Read Galatians 5:16-26 and answer the following questions: 2) Contrast living in the flesh with living in the Spirit.

3) What does it mean to have "crucified the flesh?"

4) Based on Galatians 5:22-23, in what ways can you walk in the Spirit personally by allowing Him to produce this fruit in your life?

January 28, 2018



Sexual Purity in a Fallen World

Focal Verse:

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 1 Corinthians 6:1

Nearly every day when we turn on the television or read the news, we hear about some type of sexual perversion whether claims of sexual harassment, infidelity, divorce, inappropriate relationships with minors, homosexuality, and debates about the determination of gender identity. Television, movies, and the Internet bombard us with graphic sexual content and innuendo; the homosexual agenda has created a culture in which nearly every television show and many commercials have a "gay" character. Unfaithfulness as both married and unmarried individuals has not only become a joke, but it is prized and celebrated. Throughout the pages of Scripture, however, God has given us a clear prescription for sexual relationships—they are to be practiced only within the boundaries of marriage between one man and one woman who remain committed to Christ and one another for life. Therefore, we will find the greatest level of satisfaction in our relationships, just as any other area in life, when we abide by the boundaries which God has established and live with purity and integrity.

Practicing Purity

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rendaces all **Excellence OffAPTER 13** will show you the **Gift of Loss** twill show you the **Gift of Loss** all the others in the way which shy here body, have love and angelic say well, which shy here body, have love and angelic say well, which shy here body, and with ult have ble Bong a Odo Greek, and with ult have ble Bong a Odo More mountains, but have feast or a composition the det and the same have here bong a odo the same and the same have be bong a odo the same and the same have be bong a odo the same and the same have here bong a odo the same and the same have be bong and the same the same and the same have be bong and the same the same and the same have be bong and the same the same and the same have be bong and the same the same and the same have be bong and the same the same and the same have be bong and the same the same and the same have be bong and the same the same and the same have bong and the same the same and the same and the same have be bong and the same the same and the same and the same and the same the same and the same and the same and the same the same and the same and the same and the same the same and the same and the same and the same the same and the same and the same and the same the same and the same and the same and the same the same and the same and the same and the same the same and the same and the same and the same the same and the same and the same and the same and the same the same and the sa and the second s

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Outline

Sunday:

Remain Faithful at All Times

Monday:

Resist Temptation in All Circumstances

Tuesday:

Refrain from the Appearance of Evil

Wednesday:

Resolve to Abstain until Marriage

Thursday:

Renounce All Forms of Lust

Friday:

Respect the Boundaries of God's Creation

Saturday:

Remember the Creation Story

Sunday:

Remain Faithful at All Times

Read Exodus 20:14 & Matthew 5:28 and answer the following question: 1) What constitutes unfaithfulness or adultery according to Jesus' teaching?

Read Matthew 19:3-12 and answer the following questions:

2) What does Jesus say about the permanence of marriage in this passage?

3) According to Jesus' discussion with the Pharisees, why did Moses permit the filing of a certificate of divorce?

4) What reason does Jesus cite that divorce may be permitted? Does this mean that we *must* divorce if this occurs?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:16 & Proverbs 31:11 and answer the following

question:

5) How does intimacy in marriage promote faithfulness?

Monday:

Resist Temptation in All Circumstances

Read Luke 22:40, Matthew 6:13, & 1 Corinthians 10:13 and answer the following questions:

1) What is the first thing that we must do when we experience temptation?

2) If we seek God during a time of temptation in our lives, what does 1 Corinthians 10:13 promise He will do?

3) Why is it important that we not put ourselves in tempting situations in general?

Read James 1:13-15 and answer the following questions: 4) Who or what is the source of our temptations?

5) If we continually put ourselves in enticing situations, what does verse 15 say the result will be?

Tuesday:

Refrain from the Appearance of Evil

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:22 and answer the following questions:

The English translation of the Greek literally states: "abstain from every appearance of immorality." The word immorality that Paul uses is from whence we get our word pornography; thus, we are to avoid the appearance of any kind of sexual impropriety in our lives.

1) How does living together before or outside of marriage give the impression of sexual immorality?

2) Even if no sexual immorality is occurring when two people are living together outside of marriage, why should we not participate in this practice which seems culturally acceptable?

Read Proverbs 5:15-23 and answer the following questions:

3) What does this passage say about promiscuity whether before or during marriage (vv. 15-17)?

4) According to these verses, what does God sanction and bless (vv. 18-19)?

5) How do these verses describe any type of sexual relationship apart from marriage (vv. 20-23)?

Wednesday:

Resolve to Abstain until Marriage

Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-9 and answer the following questions:

1) How is marriage or singleness a gift from the Lord (v. 7)?

2) In these verses, what does it mean to practice self-control in terms of either being unmarried or a widow?

Read Proverbs 6:23-29 and answer the following questions: 3) What helps us not to succumb to lust in our lives (vv. 23-24)?

4) As both men and women, how does any kind of sexual immorality "prey upon" a person's "precious life?"

Thursday:

Renounce All Forms of Lust

Read Romans 1:24-28 and answer the following questions:

1) According to this passage, how do the Romans dishonor their bodies?

2) In verse 26, how does God respond to this dishonor perpetrated among them?

3) Paul equates homosexuality in these verses with what vice which stands in opposition to love (v. 27)?

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Read Leviticus 18 & 20:13 and answer the following questions: 4) What sexually immoral activities does God outlaw in these verses?

5) Why does Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 call homosexuality an abomination before the Lord? (Hint: Think back to creation in Genesis 1:26-28.)

**For other passages which deal with homosexuality as unbiblical and sinful, read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Timothy 1:8-11, and Revelation 22:15.

Friday:

Respect the Boundaries of God's Creation

Read 1 John 2:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, & Ephesians 5:3-5 and

answer the following questions:

1) According to 1 John 2:16-17, what is the source of lust? To what does lust lead?

2) In 1 Corinthians 6:18, what should our response to sexual immorality be?

3) What does 1 Corinthians call our bodies (v. 19)? How should we use our bodies (v. 20)?

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4) Why does Paul say that any kind of sexual immorality is especially heinous toward the Lord (vv. 18-20)?

5) In Ephesians 5:3-5, what are the things that Paul says shouldn't even be named among us?

6) In what way do we see "locker room" talk and sexual innuendo in our society today? How has a culture through movies, the Internet, and bawdy talk contributed to sexual harassment and sexual perversion in our society?

Saturday:

Remember the Creation Story

Read Genesis 1:26-28 and answer the following questions:

1) How did God create the first couple?

2) What was the purpose or job of the first couple?

Read Deuteronomy 22:5 and answer the following question:

3) What does this Scripture prohibit? Why should we not blur the distinctive between men and women?

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Read Ephesians 5:22-33 and answer the following questions:

4) What are the different roles for husbands and wives as outlined in this passage by Paul?

5) Why has God not abolished these roles, but has upheld them from the very foundation of the world?

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