

“Wild Horses Can Keep You Away”

April 6, 2008 * Proverbs 1:1-7

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.” ~ Proverbs 1:7

I. Progress Report In Our Purity Series

A. Why does purity matter?

B. How am I doing with the area or areas of sin I was to give up during these 60 days?

C. And if I've blown it, what then?

D. What are our 2 main obstacles to purity?

II. Now We Enter Part 2 In The Series: Dealing With Our _____ Nature.

A. A person becomes a Christian and may expect to change overnight. Instead they become more frustrated. Why?

1. Only when you become a Christian do you become _____ of the full _____ of your sin.

a. What happens when you remodel your house?

2. When you become Jesus' follower, you bring all your _____, sins and bad _____ into God's kingdom with you, and these must be _____.

a. What does 'repentance' literally mean?

III. Lessons From A Life – A Personal Testimony From Heather Adams – Jot down some Scriptures & thoughts

IV. Proverbs 1:1-7

A. Our untrained nature will be overcome when we allow God to bring two precious things into our lives:

_____ and _____

B. To live life well, what do these verses say we need?

C. Who can learn these things?

1. The _____ can learn this.

*2. The _____ can learn this.
a. What did Paul tell Timothy (1 Tim.4:12)?*

b. What makes us mature?

*3. Those who are already _____ & _____ can learn even more of this.
a. Read 2 Cor.3:18 and 2 Cor.4:16-17. What is promised here?*

This week's projects:

1. Continue reviewing all your memory verses.
2. Identify 3 or 4 areas where you need to develop more discipline.
3. For each area, determine if it's a knowledge problem or a self-control problem. Begin to pray and listen to God about each area this week, writing down what you are learning.

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I. Progress Report In Our Purity Series

A. Why does purity matter?

Problems of impurity destroy so many lives and in so many ways. Eliot Spitzer is no longer the Governor of New York because of a purity problem. His heart was overrun by lust and power. The mortgage crisis plaguing this nation’s economy is at its heart a purity problem. Running beneath it all is a river of greed. That one out of every hundred Americans are presently sitting in jail cells is largely a purity problem. Long before these men and women were locked behind bars of steel, their hearts and minds were already in prison, locked behind bars of behaviors which they could not control.

B. How am I doing with the area or areas of sin I was to give up during these 60 days?

C. And if I’ve blown it, what then?

Chances are that you’ve fallen smack on your face. Tell you what? Get back at it. Get out of the dirt. Prov.24:16 – “*Though the righteous man falls seven times, he rises again.*” Get up, run to the Cross, ask for Jesus’ forgiveness, ask for Jesus’ power and get back in the ring.

D. What are our 2 main obstacles to purity?

There are two primary obstacles which seriously hinder our quest for purity: we have a sin nature and we have an untrained nature.

II. Now We Enter Part 2 In The Series: Dealing With Our Untrained Nature.

A. A person becomes a Christian and may expect to change overnight. Instead they become more frustrated. Why?

1. Only when you become a Christian do you become aware of the full depth of your sin.

a. What happens when you remodel your house?

Janis and I went to put in new lights above our kitchen sink. Such a simple thing to fix. But then we noticed there’s the little leak coming from the sink faucet, we’d best replace that while we’re at it, and gee honey, with this new light, the paint on the kitchen walls is all dingy, and those cupboards of ours, need paint too, and handles – how could we be so Neanderthal to use cupboards without handles all these years, and holy home improvement Batman, just look in the dining room – that floor just cannot mock us another day – it’s time to replace it.

The same thing happens when you become a Christian, and Jesus comes into your life. You think your life just needs a little remodeling. You had those big one or two sins that brought you running to the Cross, but other than that you thought you were in pretty good shape. And then you started reading your Bible and going to church, started having coffee with Jesus each day, and suddenly, you start seeing things you never saw before. It’s not just a new set of lights and a splash of paint and you’re all better. The rottenness, and termites and mold of sin have been working on you a lifetime, and there’s a lot of work to be done.

2. When you become Jesus’ follower, you bring all your defects, sins and bad habits into God’s kingdom with you, and these must be unlearned.

a. What does ‘repentance’ literally mean?

It doesn’t mean just to say your sorry. Doesn’t mean just to ask forgiveness. That’s part of it. But the Greek word *metanoia* from which we get the word ‘repentance’ literally means to ‘change your heart and mind about something’. It means to change the way you think. To unlearn bad thoughts and habits. That’s repentance.

III. *Lessons From A Life – A Personal Testimony From Heather Adams – Jot down some Scriptures & thoughts*

Proverbs 5:11-14 – ‘At the end of your life you will groan when your flesh and body are spent. You will say, ‘How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors. I have come to brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly.’

Prov.1:7 – “...fools despise wisdom and discipline.”

Prov.13:18 – “He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame.”

Prov.3:12 – “The Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son or daughter he delights in.”

IV. *Proverbs 1:1-7*

A. *Our untrained nature will be overcome when we allow God to bring two precious things into our lives:*

Wisdom (the knowledge of how to live rightly) and Discipline (the ability or self-control of how to live rightly)

B. *To live life well, what do these verses say we need?*

We must be taught (given the right knowledge) and we must be trained (given the ability to use that knowledge). To be a better parent, I must learn biblical parenting principles (knowledge) and I must then learn to put them into practice (discipline). To become financially free, I must learn biblical financial principles (knowledge) and then I must learn to put those principles into practice (discipline).

C. *Who can learn these things?*

1. *The simple can learn this.*

You don’t need a college degree to live this way. Frankly, some of the biggest moral fools out there making the biggest moral ruin of their lives are those with advanced degrees behind their names. Now education is important, but God’s kingdom is filled with

simple people who learn how to live beautiful lives of dignity and holiness.

2. *The young can learn this.*

a. *What did Paul tell Timothy (1 Tim.4:12)?*

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

b. *What makes us mature?*

Age does not make a person mature. Wisdom and discipline make a person mature. And the young can lead the way in this. Especially if you start following Jesus Christ early on and begin doing what he tells you. You don’t have to go out there and screw up your life to learn that something is right or wrong. You can just follow Jesus, and he’ll show you. You don’t have to plunge into reckless financial debt, then spend a third of your life trying to get out of that hole. Follow Jesus and you never have to fall in that hole to begin with.

Young people, this is your moment. Don’t blow it. Wisdom and discipline are yours for the taking. Start following Jesus now! Just because your parents blew it, doesn’t mean you have to blow it. Just because your friends makes a mess of things, doesn’t mean you have to make a mess of things. You can be an example in speech, in life, in love, in faith, in purity.

3. *Those who are already mature & godly can learn even more of this.*

a. *Read 2 Cor.3:18 and 2 Cor.4:16-17. What is promised here?*

2 Cor.3:18 – “We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

If you are a Christian however young in the Lord, you reflect right now in some measure the Lord’s glory in your life. But guess what happens over time? That glory, that likeness, that resemblance will just keep on growing as you submit to Jesus and walk with him. It ought never stop.

Our physical bodies will start to wear out and wear down as we go on in life. But inside something wonderful is happening in the life of a Christian who lets Jesus teach them wisdom and discipline. 2 Corinthians 4:16-17. “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”

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