

STAMPEDE

January 24, 2010

Would you rather...

...be told you have a boogie hanging from your nose or be told you have bad breath?

...be a baby again or be 40 years old?

...eat a bar of soap or drink a bottle of dishwasher liquid?

...get three shots from the doctor or one filling from the dentist?

...drink a pop after someone spit in it, or eat a pizza that someone made with disgustingly dirty hands?

That last question is a tricky one. Most everyone would pass on either if they could. We all know that eating gross (impure) food is a bad idea. But we all have the tendency to allow impurity from other sources into our lives way too often. As we talk tonight, let's see how we can be RISKS disciples with our purity.

Tip: as you discuss these opening questions, make sure to let the students share openly without voicing judgment on what they say; this will foster openness later in the study

What do you say?

- ◆ What are you learning about purity and sex in school?
- ◆ Where do most students receive their information about sex (school, parents, friends, movies, etc.)?
- ◆ Help your leader...share something he should know about sexual issues Jr. High students face today.
- ◆ Is it difficult to talk to your parents about purity issues? Why do you think that is?

BE A RISKS DISCIPLE IN YOUR PURITY

RISKS

RELY ON GOD

Being pure can be one of the toughest rules a follower of Jesus lives by. Almost everything in our world pushes us toward impurity. How can we have success in being pure? The first step is realizing that this is not a matter of our choice or our power to make it happen.

Read **1 Corinthians 6:19**

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price.

What do you say?

- ◆ According to this verse, who owns our lives? How did He become our owner?
- ◆ If God owns our lives, does He have the right to make choices for us? How does this make you feel?

Thankfully we belong to an overwhelmingly loving God. How do we know this? Underline the last seven words of the verse above. God paid such a high price for us that He would never do anything to damage us or leave us on our own.

We see this in the area of purity. God calls us to live a pure life in the middle of a very impure world. Thankfully, He doesn't expect us to do it on our own. Because He loves us so much, He has given us the power and ability to be pure.

In **Galatians 5:16 and 19** we find God's power to be pure.

Tip: to live by the Spirit we must be filled by Him (Eph. 5:18) so that we take on His character (Gal. 5:22-23) as we submit to His control of our lives. This will be difficult for the students to truly understand but we need to lay this foundation for them.

Verse 19 says that two signs of our sinful nature are SEXUAL
IMMORALITY and IMPURITY.

Verse 16 gives us the key to living pure lives. If we live by the SPIRIT we will not give in to our sinful desires.

What do you say?

- ◆ Why do you think it's necessary to live by the Spirit? Why can't we do it on our own?
- ◆ **1 Corinthians 6:19** says we already have the Spirit in us. So what do you think it means to "live by the Spirit?"
- ◆ Is this plan better than having to be pure on our own? Why?

BE A RISKS DISCIPLE IN YOUR PURITY

RISKS

SHAPED INTO CHRIST LIKENESS

While it's absolutely true that God's Spirit gives us the power to be pure, it's also true that we have a part to play. One way we need to use God's power is to keep a **PURE MIND**.

Romans 12:2 says...

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Underline the words that tells us what a pure mind stops doing.

What do you say?

- ◆ When it comes to purity, what are the "patterns of this world?"
- ◆ What are some of the common ways that Christians conform to this pattern?

Now circle the words that tells us what God wants to do in our minds so that we can be pure.

Transforming and renewing our minds means changing how we think. In **Philippians 4:8** God lays out how a renewed minds should work by describing the kinds of things it should be focusing on. Write out the things a pure mind thinks about and the corresponding things an impure mind would think about.

Tip: you can go deeper here by asking the students to give examples of the impure categories from their experiences

<i>In a Pure Mind</i>	<i>In an Impure Mind</i>
Whatever is true	Whatever is false, lies, etc.

What do you say?

- ◆ Which list best fits the way your mind is working these days?
- ◆ Is there a particular area that you need God to renew your mind so it can be more pure?

BE A RISKS DISCIPLE IN YOUR PURITY

But sometimes thoughts pop into our minds without our permission. What do we do then?

According to **2 Corinthians 10:5**, we are to "...take **CAPTIVE** every thought and make it **OBEDIENT** to Christ."

What do you say?

- ◆ What does it mean to take a thought captive?
- ◆ And what does it mean to make our thoughts obedient to Christ?
- ◆ How would you explain to someone how to do this?

For guys, the biggest problem in our minds is impure thoughts about girls. God has wired us so that we are attracted to girls and we especially like the way they look. This is great when you're looking at your wife (in the future) but can cause some struggles for you today.

What do you say?

- ◆ What causes you the most difficulty in keeping your thoughts about girls pure?
- ◆ What has helped you keep your thoughts about girls pure?

Tip: don't let them be too generic here; push the guys for specific actions they can take in their lives to fight impure thoughts.

What are some practical actions you can make that will help you keep your thoughts pure?

1. _____
2. _____

TAKE AWAY

God has already made the choice for us. He wants us to be pure. And He's already given us the power to make that happen...even in the middle of our impure world. God's Spirit living in us gives us the power to be pure.

But we have a part to play in being pure too. Even though God's choice for us is purity, we have the freedom to rebel and allow impurity in our lives.

Tonight, we talked about keeping a pure mind. As you go through this next week, consider these things...

- ◆ What impurities am I allowing into my mind?
- ◆ Confess them to Jesus and let Him make you clean.
- ◆ What steps can you take to keep that impurity out this week?
- ◆ Start each day by asking God to fill you with His Spirit so that you have the power to resist the pressure to be impure.

BE A RISKS DISCIPLE IN YOUR PURITY