

PureMen

PureMen Bible Study – Session 6 – 1/7/09

Something To Thank the Lord For?

Recite Memory Verse (James 4:7,8) & Offer Reward for those successfully reciting it.

Review Study Questions from Chapter Four – *The Process of Sin*

James 1:13-15

¹³Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: ¹⁴But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Is temptation in and of itself a sin? NO! Jesus was tempted and yet never sinned.

So where does lustful temptation come from?

Sometimes the desire and craving for things are almost unbearable. We see something and we know it is wrong, that we should not have it or do it, but the desire and craving become so strong that we can hardly stand it. The craving may be for things such as...

- *Having your own way;*
- *doing your own thing;*
- *food;*
- *immoral sex;*
- *viewing pornography;*
- *accumulation of things;*
- *clothing;*
- *recognition;*
- *alcohol;*
- *cigarettes;*
- *other illegal drugs; etc...*

Well, this is what lustful temptation is: it is the *desire and craving* for wrong things, things that God forbids and that are harmful to our human bodies and spirits. No matter what it is – even if man justifies and says that it is acceptable – it is sin if God says that it is wrong and if it harms our bodies and spirits. Therefore, when we feel an urge or craving for such things, we are being tempted - and **temptation is to be fled from**.

Where does temptation come from? Why do we desire and crave many of the things mentioned earlier? What causes the urge for them? Knowing the origin of temptation will help us tremendously in conquering the trials and temptations of life.

From our passage in James, we see that:

1. Temptation is not of God (v.13)
2. Temptation is of man, of his own lust (v.14,15)

I. Temptation Is Not of God

- a. Man is always blaming someone else for tempting him and leading him into sin.
 - i. **Adam blamed God** - “the woman whom thou gavest to be with me...” Gen 3:12 “
 - ii. **Eve blamed the serpent** – “the serpent beguiled me...” Gen 3:13
 - iii. This is the point –
 1. Man blames woman, woman blames man; spouse blames spouse; child blames parent, parent blames child; student blames teacher, teacher blames the school; employee blames employer; and on it goes....
 2. We try to justify our behavior and quiet our conscious by blaming others – anyone but ourselves. And in doing so, we often blame God.
 - iv. We complain and say “***Why would God allow such a thing to happen – to marry such a spouse, or have such a terrible accident, or allow all of these bad things to come into my life.?!?***”
 - v. We blame God by thinking it was Him who created us with such desires and passions, therefore if we slip up here and there, He will understand and forgive us.
 - vi. Or we blame God by thinking that this world is His creation – so if we indulge in it, certainly He will understand and overlook our shortcomings.
- b. God is not the person who arouses lustful desires and cravings within us (again, v.13)
 - i. ***God cannot be tempted with evil.*** God is Holy, Righteous, Pure. Therefore, by His very nature God can have absolutely nothing to do with evil and temptation.
 - ii. ***God does not tempt any person.*** God loves, cares, and seeks to save man, not to damage or destroy his body and spirit. When a person is tempted to do forbidden or harmful things, the urge and craving is not of God. God wants the person to turn away and flee the temptation, not to crumble and succumb to it.

II. Temptation is of Man, Of His Own Lust (v. 14,15)

- a. There are a couple of things about temptation and sin that must be understood if we are to consistently conquer it:

- i. ***There is lust and enticement*** – Every man (there are no exceptions) is tempted when he is ***drawn away by his own lusts and enticed***.
 1. Lust involves craving something – either good or evil. The problem is when we begin to lust after something that is forbidden or harmful.
 - a. Man begins to pay attention to what he should not look at; he begins to think about things of the flesh and of the world. Thereby he is tempted and drawn away by his own lusts and enticements.

- ii. ***There is the conception of lust and the birth of sin*** – When a person actually begins to look at and think about the forbidden thing, desire and lust are conceived in his mind.
 1. He pictures the pleasure of the desire; and then sin is actually born.
 - a. Picturing – looking at or thinking about the desire is sin. (Matthew 5:28 “*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*”).

- iii. ***The point is this***: temptation begins with the normal and natural desires of man and with his thoughts. A person sees, smells, tastes, hears, touches, or thinks about something – something that is forbidden and harmful – **and he fails to turn away and flee from it**. Instead of fleeing, he allows his mind to conceive the thing. He pictures the pleasure and begins to desire or lust after it. Sin is born; the wrong is committed right there in his mind.

III. The Way to Overcome Temptation

Spiritual Battles Must be Fought with Spiritual Weapons!

- a. If the temptation attacks our thoughts, then we must push the wrong thought out of our mind, and then **begin to immediately focus our thoughts upon Christ and some passage of Scripture**.
- b. If the temptation comes from some attraction to our senses – seeing, hearing, touching – then **we must turn our head or body away and flee the temptation**. Then again, immediately we must focus upon Jesus Christ, pray, and recite Scripture to ourselves.
- c. **Find the Escape Route!** 1 Corinthians 10:13 “*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*”

Any testimonies of how this PureMen Study has made an impact on your life?

Close in PRAYER!

CHARACTER...



**To sow a thought is to reap an action;
To sow an action is to reap a habit;
To sow a habit is to reap a character;
To sow a character is to reap a destiny.**

-Unknown

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are **true**, whatsoever things are **honest**,
whatsoever things are **just**, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are **lovely**,
whatsoever things are of **good report**, if there be any **virtue**, and if there be any **praise**,
think on these things.”

--Philippians 4:8

A Memory Tool for Phil 4:9

The Happy Joker Plays Lowly Grand Rapids
True, Honest, Just, Pure, Lovely, Good Report
Virtue, Praise...
Think on These Things!