

# PureMen

## PureMen Bible Study – Session 1 – November 5, 2008

Does Anybody Have Anything to Thank the Lord for tonight?

Welcome & Introductions

Review Objectives of PureMen: *Teaching Men to be Passionate About Purity!*

- ✓ Learn how to restore relationships within your marriage and family (including relationship with Jesus Christ)
- ✓ Learn to deny the flesh and live a victorious life
- ✓ Learn to honor God with your thought life
- ✓ Learn to identify and deal with the root issues of sin – selfishness and pride
- ✓ Learn to maintain a pure heart in the midst of the world’s constant barrage of seductive images.
- ✓ TO MAKE US MORE LIKE JESUS!

### Introductory Comments

- ✓ Your participation in the this class **DOES NOT** mean that you have a “serious” problem with issues such as pornography, some form of sexual addiction, drug abuse, etc. You may think that that is what people are saying but you need to get over that.
  - I realize that it takes a fair amount of *humility* just to come to this class – and humility is always a good thing.
  - The Bible says in James 4:6 “Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble”
- ✓ Let me also say that if you do have a “serious” problem with pornography, some form of sexual addiction, drug addiction, etc. that there is **A WAY OUT!** You may have lost all hope and experienced defeat again and again but **THERE IS A WAY TO VICTORY!** And it all begins with **Jesus Christ! He is the Answer! He is the Solution!** You may have heard it all before and may think that that approach seems to easy but this class, if you stick with it, will, without question, show you the pathway to complete and lasting victory! It won’t be easy and it won’t come overnight – but you can climb out of that pit that you have been trapped in perhaps for years and years! There is Hope! There is a way to lasting VICTORY! And it is in JESUS!

### ✓ **Comments Group Sharing Guidelines**

- There is no required sharing of personal “sins.” There is no time of saying things like, “Hello, my name is Steve Williams, and I’ve been addicted to pornography for seven years.” No! We will not do things like that here.
- We will have a time of discussion each week, but that discussion will center around the “homework” associated with our workbook.
- Any personal sharing that one of you may choose to do will be of your own volition.
- That being said, let me also say that there is tremendous value in sharing your sins with another man. Now, without question, ***only Jesus Christ can forgive our sins, and He is the one we confess our sins to.*** But, as we will see in our study, part of the pathway to victory involves ***personal brokenness. Our pride needs to be crushed.*** And one of the ways that often comes about is by “coming clean with our sins” to another man. Laying it all out in the open with one who is spiritually mature, who can hold you accountable to continually flee from those things that have controlled you in the past. In fact, one of my desires from this study will be to help each of you develop a biblically based accountability partnership that will assist you in this pursuit of purity.
- Everything that is said here, STAYS HERE!
- One person talks at a time.

### **Commentary About the Book We’ll Be Using**

- Background of Steve Gallagher
- Very sound doctrinally – in fact, he generally nails it “right between the eyes” – straight and direct.
- Unfortunately not KJV – Use your KJV Bible when you read the chapters.
- Chapter One & Two – One of the Things I would change would be to “tone down” the first chapter. ***Don’t let it scare you off because of the “heinous” nature of the sexual sins mentioned.*** This study is not just for those types of sinners or just for sexual / pornographic addicts. It is for all men! I firmly believe every Christian man in the country needs to read this book!
- There will definitely be a tendency to say “*what have I gotten myself in to?*” & “*This definitely isn’t for me!*” Let me strongly encourage you to “hang in there” through these first two chapters, especially. You are here tonight! And I believe that is not by mistake. ***God has a reason for you to be here!***
  - Maybe it is to finally get victory over a problem that you have struggled with or even denied existed for a long time.
  - Maybe its just to re-insulate you from the onslaught of seductive images that continually come our way.
  - Maybe its to equip you to help others who are struggling.
  - I don’t know – but please realize that God has brought you here for a purpose – and it is not by mistake!
- Talk about the Title – ***At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry.*** You may not want to leave this laying around at home. And you definitely want to put your name in the workbook.
- Summarize how the HOMEWORK will go: E.g. Read Chapter One, Do Chapter One Study in the Workbook.

### **Format of Wednesday Night Sessions**

- Meet here (in this room) at 7:00 P.M.
  - Review Weekly Summit Stretch
  - Review Study Questions
  - Summary Message
  - Try to conclude between 8:00 and 8:15 each evening
  - Notes will be sent via email each week and will also be available for download and review on the [www.puremenminstry.org](http://www.puremenminstry.org) website.
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- ✓ **Review Spirituality Assessment Form & Process**
  - ✓ **Review Week One Assignment** (*Forward, Introduction, & Ch 1 in Book & Workbook*)
  - ✓ **Summit Stretch Memory Cards – Galatians 5:16**
  - ✓ **Payment for Books (\$20)**
  - ✓ **Discuss my conflict with next week’s session (11/12) and how it will be handled.**

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Some of us in this room tonight (those older than 50 or so) can remember a time when our world was not so obsessed with sex. Illicit sex was limited and confined to the seedy underworld. You didn’t have to be on-guard when you were watching television because the “raciest” thing you would probably see was a couple kissing or a vague comment.

Admittedly, I was blown away when I read this Plain Dealer article in early September about the Promise Keepers event in Downtown Cleveland. The Sept 6<sup>th</sup> article said the following:

*“An Article in Cleveland Plain Dealer on September 6th caught my eye earlier this month. It was about the annual Promise Keepers convention. The article said, “**More than 3000 Christian men gathered in downtown Cleveland on Saturday to talk straight with one another about their vices and pledge to be better fathers, husbands, and people... After a worship service at which a band played, attendees who participated in a text message questionnaire were asked what their most difficult challenge was. More than 80% of the text messages said it was viewing pornography. When those with the problem were asked to come to the stage and pray, hundreds responded.**”*

*In the word of James, “My brethren, these things ought not so to be.” (James 3:10)”*

The statistics that describe the magnitude of the problem in America further blow you away!

- Nearly 8 out of 10 primetime TV shows contain suggestive sexual content today, averaging almost six sex scenes per hour. For many shows, the entire dialogue is built around sexual innuendo.
- If your standing in a checkout line, you’ll undoubtedly be accosted by magazines with overt sexual themes and scantily dressed women on the covers.
- You cannot drive from your home to work without seeing a scantily dressed women (perhaps running in nothing but a jogging bra) or a sexually suggestive billboard. Navels, low-cut blouses, skin tight jeans, and mini-skirts are everywhere.
- And then there’s the INTERNET- an internet surfer can literally choose from millions of sexual images from anything he can imagine – all in the privacy of his own home or office.

- A 2001 study showed that annual revenues from pornography were approximately \$10 billion in the U.S. alone.
- There are nearly 4.2 million websites that offer adult content today – and this continues to grow almost exponentially.
- Approximately 25 million Americans visit cyber-sex sites between 1-10 hours per week.
- According to an online poll conducted by MSNBC.com and Elle magazine – of the 15000 surveyed, 75% of men had admitted to viewing or downloading erotic films from the web.
- **IT IS CLEAR THAT AMERICANS HAVE ADOPTED A WIDE-SCALE TOLERANCE FOR IMMORALITY!**
- Pure Life Ministries states that 50% of Christian men are addicted to pornography.

**“So What is God’s standard on this subject?** Ephesians 5:3 makes it very clear - *“But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints.”* **God’s standard is clear – this should not be part of our life!”**

**“So then why are so many men struggling with this today?** I believe the answer lies in a life that is either being walked in (or controlled by) the flesh instead of a life that is walked in (or controlled) by the Spirit. Galatians 5:16 says *“This is say then, Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.”*

So herein lies the challenge for believers! Within this immoral climate and culture, we are expected to live godly lives.

Not only do we have to deal with the onslaught from the world, each one of us has to deal with and get victory over his old fleshly nature.

Read Galatians 5:16 – 26

***We can have victory and not be a slave to our sinful, fleshly nature!***

Romans 6:6-7: *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. <sup>7</sup>For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

Romans 6:12-13: *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. <sup>13</sup>Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

**Do you sincerely desire to have a pure thought life?** I believe each of you do – that’s why you’re here!

Let me challenge you...you cannot be truly walking with God and be involved in this mess of immorality! **You CANNOT do it!** You may have everyone else fooled; there may not be another soul on this earth that knows what you’re doing in the privacy of your own home – but can I tell you that **God knows!**

You may say something like, “Well things are great with my spiritual life, except for this one little area.” Let me repeat again, **YOU CANNOT BE IN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND BE INVOLVED IN THIS WICKEDNESS!!!**

2 Cor 6:14 ...”*for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”*

1 John 1:6 “*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*”

God may have arranged this class just for you – because **He loves you that much and He wants to have His relationship with you restored!**

**If you’ve been caught up in this evil trap, let me assure you – there is a way out!**

2 Cor 9:8 tell us: *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

This study will help you begin making that climb out of the deep pit of sin and defeat and plant your feet firmly on the solid rock of Jesus Christ!

**Closing Comments:**

*“<sup>10</sup>Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. <sup>13</sup>Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”*

**Ephesians 6:10-13**