

Small Group Discussion Questions

RENEWING OUR CHURCH'S MISSION – NO. 5

“Renewing Our Commitment to Purity” – Revelation 2:18-29

Theme: *Temptations are everywhere in our sex-charged society. We need to understand and follow clear, specific biblical principles in order to cope.*

We've already considered that strong, Christ-honoring churches need love, faithfulness and truth. We now learn that they also need purity. Consider the following:

- One out of every 10 men attending church is dealing with a sexual addiction.
- 25 million Americans visit cybersex sites for up to 10 hours a week.
- 70% of internet pornography traffic occurs during the 9-5 workday.
- 37% of pastors struggle with the temptation of online pornography.
- Among churchgoers, 25% of husbands and 12% of wives have committed adultery.

This is an area of struggle for many people, even those within the church. If we're going to live in sexual purity, we're going to need clear, specific biblical principles to direct our behavior.

Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

How were you introduced to the topic of sexuality? By a parent, sex education class, or some other way? What was your reaction?

Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

Read Revelation 2:18-29:

1. What is there about sex that makes it such a powerful means of either intimacy or abuse?
2. How is sexual sin different from other sins? See 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.
3. What is God's view of sex within marriage? Consider the following verses in answering the question:

Song of Solomon 5:10-16; 7:1-5
 Proverbs 5:18-19
 1 Corinthians 7:5

4. Read Psalm 130. Whatever your sexual past, or the patterns of your hearts and minds, there is grace and hope in God's forgiveness. How can we experience this?

Getting Real Together (Accessibility)

For the remainder of the lesson, please consider having co-ed groups break into gender-specific groups.

1. Consider your personal response to the examples in the chart below. Are they morally acceptable? Check “ok”, “not ok” or “depends.”

| | Ok | Not Ok | Depends |
|--|----|--------|---------|
| Premarital Sex | | | |
| “Friends with benefits” | | | |
| Living together/co-habitation | | | |
| Heavy Petting | | | |
| Pornography (websites, chat rooms, movies) | | | |
| Lust | | | |
| Adultery | | | |
| Flirting | | | |
| Provocative clothing | | | |
| Same sex attraction | | | |
| Masturbation | | | |

2. According to the Scriptures, how would God check each of the above examples? Do God's standards seem harsh or loving?
3. In which areas of sexual temptation do you struggle?
4. What action step(s) were mentioned in the sermon for handling sexual temptation? Which did you find particularly helpful? Why?
5. Have you ever been hurt by, or have you ever hurt, someone else because of a sexual behavior?
6. How can you more effectively demonstrate love and respect for members of the opposite sex?

Praying Together (Supplication)

Pray for healing and recovery for those who need it and for the strength to make changes wherever needed in order to honor the Lord especially in the area of our sexuality.