

## 2. The Purity Principle

Mat shared his story of trying to pursue purity in his romantic relationship and how challenging that can be. Can you relate to Mat's experiences? What stood out to you in what he shared?

This week, Philip focused on 'The Purity Principle', asking how we can follow God's vision for relationship. What do you think of when you hear the word purity? What do you think it means to 'live with purity'?

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2 and 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 together.

*"1 Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity."*

*"3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister."*

- What do you think it means for men to 'treat younger women as sisters, with absolute purity?' And vice versa?
- What challenges are there living like this in our culture right now?

The Bible is pretty clear, this phrase 'sexual immorality' (or *porneia*) refers to extra-marital sex. However, an objection that we often hear to this is that sex is good for relationships and it validates them. (How can you know if you're right for each other if you don't try out the sex part?)

- Have you held - or do you hold - either of these opinions? Why do you think they are so prevalent in our culture?
- What things make it difficult to live with these godly values? What are the pressures and are there practical things we can do so that we live to please God?

The Purity Principle is this: be holy and honourable, don't wrong or taking advantage.

What would it mean for our relationships to be **holy**? And what would it mean for them to be **honourable**?

- What kind of dating practices lead to people being **wronged** or taken **advantage** of?
- How can we as followers of Jesus model something different? What could dating look like?
- What do we think of the model for finding someone that Philip gave - Chemistry, Connection, Calling? Is this helpful?

Pray together in 2s and 3s for God's help, forgiveness and grace. Pray for the Spirit to give you power to live a life pleasing to God.

Check out the following website for more research and information:

<http://slidingvsdeciding.blogspot.com/2014/07/the-mystery-why-isnt-living-together.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/jul/23/why-sex-is-better-in-a-long-term-relationship>

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/in-the-name-love/201303/does-cohabitation-lead-more-divorces>

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/current/porn-addiction-now-threatening-entire-generation>

<http://yourbrainonporn.com>

<https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/how-delaying-intimacy-can-benefit-your-relationship/>