

## Family Matters Sermon Series

Week 2 (May 2, 2010)

### Additional Resources for Leaders

There is a word that captures this broader definition of sexual righteousness: chastity. This word is derived from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is not in popular use at this time in our culture, but a look at its definition sheds light on the implications of Jesus' fuller understanding of what it takes to be considered sexually righteous before God. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary it means:

**1** : the quality or state of being chaste: as **a** : abstention from unlawful sexual intercourse **b** : abstention from all sexual intercourse **c** : purity in conduct and intention **d** : restraint and simplicity in design or expression **2** : personal integrity

As Christ-followers, we are called to authentic, ever-deepening relationships with our loving and just Creator. He desires our heart, mind, body, and soul. Whether you are a parent, teacher, coach, or manager you understand the significance of right behavior motivated by a will that is aligned with your larger vision. Otherwise, the results will not be long-lived.

1. Sometimes discipline involves adding something to life (prayer, fasting). What are some disciplines that call for a withdrawal of something from life? What do you think God's greater purpose is for removing something from your life?

**The purpose behind us giving up such things for a while is not that they are inherently bad but for the purpose of entering into a deeper relationship with God. Think of the purpose underlying fasting, keeping vigil, simplicity. Likewise, chastity helps us rely upon his strength, approach him more honestly, sincerely, single-heartedly, purer conscience. The difference between first set of examples and call to chastity: 1) other activities aren't sin, but sex outside God's design is; 2) other examples can be short-term application of discipline; chastity is life-long obedience.**

2. How can practicing other spiritual disciplines help you with chastity?

**The cumulative effect of practicing other disciplines shows us that, with God's strength and our resolve, we do not have to submit to every desire and appetite.**

3. How can understanding the purpose of spiritual disciplines, in general, help us better understand God's desire for our lives? Does this understanding of the chastity's purpose help you to see God's design for sex within the marital relationship of one man and one woman as an instrument to move us to a deeper relationship with our Lord?

