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Strong in Purity

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WHEN  
HAVE YOU  
IGNORED A  
WARNING?

The  
**POINT** ➤

Purity in all things impacts your service  
for Christ.

## ➤ REVELATION 2:18-29

<sup>18</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

<sup>19</sup>“I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. <sup>20</sup> But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. <sup>22</sup> Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, <sup>23</sup> and I will strike her children

dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. <sup>24</sup> But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. <sup>25</sup> Only hold fast what you have until I come. <sup>26</sup> The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, <sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup> And I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

Urban legend has it the fastest speeding ticket ever issued was in Texas in 2003. The driver of a European sports car was doing a blistering 242 mph in a 75 mph zone.<sup>1</sup> I'm guessing he didn't get away with just a warning.



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

Our response to God's love is to remain pure in all aspects of life—with our bodies, thoughts, attitudes, actions, and speech—and He empowers us to obey His commands as we live by the Spirit.

Warnings come to us in a variety of forms. Some fall in the category of obvious or unnecessary. Do we really need a printed warning telling us not to use a hair dryer in the shower? Others come with a sigh of relief. And some warnings catch our attention immediately. When your mom says you better be home by 10:30 or you're going to be grounded for a month, then you make sure you're home on time.

How seriously we take such warnings can also depend on who is giving the warning. If an elderly neighbor tells you to eat your carrots or you'll go blind, you may not pay as much attention as when your doctor gives health advice. Certainly, when a warning comes from God Himself, we should sit up and take notice!

This was the experience of the church in Thyatira. They needed a course correction, and Jesus warned them what would happen if they failed to change.

## REVELATION 2:18-19

**1** How does your church exhibit love, faithfulness, service, and endurance? How do you personally live out these qualities?

**2** What are the best ways to measure spiritual growth?

## REVELATION 2:20-23

**3** What are some characteristics of a person who lives a pure life?

**4** How do we model purity in a culture that celebrates sexual impurity?

**5** How should believers respond to immorality in the church?



*We belong to God, and because He is just, He will judge our hearts and minds—our thoughts and desires. #BSFLtheChurch*

## REVELATION 2:24-29

**6** What are some ways your church is like the church at Thyatira?

**7** What has helped you remain faithful in a culture that tolerates immorality and idolatry?

**8** How can you encourage faithfulness and purity in others?





# LIVE IT OUT



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

*Our response to God's love is to remain pure in all aspects of life—with our bodies, thoughts, attitudes, actions, and speech—and He empowers us to obey His commands as we live by the Spirit.*

The culture continually tempts people with sensual sins, but Jesus has called us to purity to the point that there shouldn't be even a hint of sexual sin in our lives. We must not give in to cultural perspectives that sex outside God's design is normal or okay. It's not. We must strive every day to live in purity, trusting in the Spirit to provide the strength to walk in obedience.

## >CHRIST

Jesus came to earth and lived a perfectly righteous life. We are called to follow Jesus in the ways He lived, and this involves our living in complete purity.

### 9 In what ways do you struggle with impurity?

### 10 What changes will you commit to making in order to live in purity before God and others?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

## PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD

**Pray every day this week that the Spirit will provide the strength necessary to walk in purity.**

## ➤ COMMUNITY

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Accountability is incredibly important to living in purity.

**11** Share with a trusted friend ways you are tempted to compromise on issues of purity. Ask them to pray for you every day and to check in with you regularly. Commit to sharing honestly.

**12** Offer to provide this same kind of encouragement, support, and accountability for a friend. Remember to keep sensitive information they might share confidential—trust is incredibly important.

Commit to following through with this type of relationship, not only this week, but into the future.

## ➤ CULTURE

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**13** Make a list of things the world says are perfectly okay, but about which the Bible has something different to say. Dig into Scripture and find verses that address these issues.

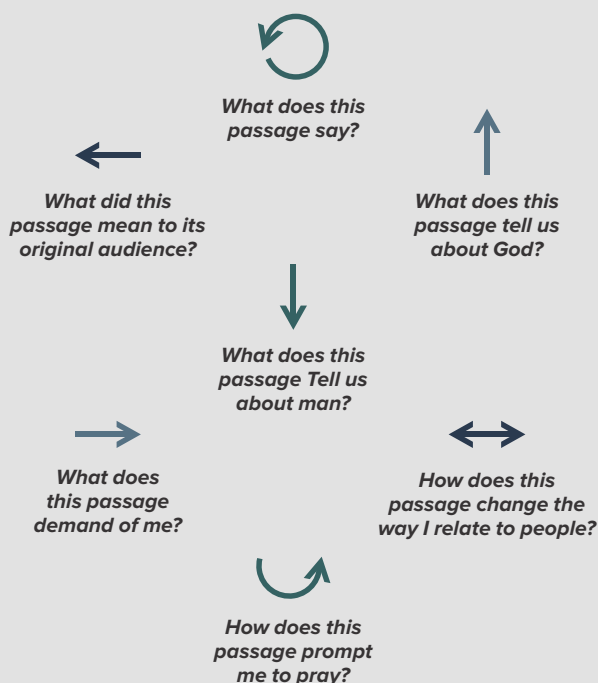
**14** Share with a non-believing friend why you believe what you believe about one or more of these issues. Help them to see the benefits of pure living as compared with the deceitfulness of sin.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One EPHESIANS 5:1

From creation, God revealed that His purpose for people is to reflect His nature and character. However, people didn't do a very good job of that. Sin separated us from God and kept us from fulfilling His purpose. Thankfully, God wasn't content to leave us in this broken state and sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins. The reason God made us is that we would reflect Him, and it is for the same reason that He saved us. Our purpose as God's people is to imitate Him so others can see His nature reflected through us. If we're His children, we have His spiritual DNA in our lives, and we will reflect the nature and character of God in the ways we live.

➤ **What does it mean that we are God's children?**

➤ **Why are we called to imitate God?**



## Day Two

# EPHESIANS 5:2



According to the Old Testament, priests burned incense on an altar outside the Most Holy Place where the presence of God dwelled among His people. When the fragrance of the incense rose beyond the curtain, God received it as representative of the prayers and worship of His people—an expression of their love and devotion—and it brought God pleasure. When Jesus, because of His great love for both God and for us, offered His life, His sacrifice pleased God in a similar way. Figuratively, Jesus' laying down His life was a fragrant aroma to God. When we live in love, willing to sacrifice for others and for God, our lives give off a fragrant aroma that pleases God.

- **When God looks at your life, in what specifically does He take pleasure?**
- **How do you demonstrate sacrificial love to the people in your life?**

## Day Three

# EPHESIANS 5:3

For followers of Jesus, there should not be even a hint of immorality in our lives. In fact, these kinds of behaviors and desires stink! Whereas sacrifice and love bring pleasure to God, He finds the impurity in our lives absolutely disgusting. We are called to live holy lives, and when we allow impure desires—whether in relation to sexual sin or material things—this is exactly the opposite. If we want to honor God with our lives and experience the blessings He desires for His people, we must put to death every bit of both sexual sin and greed in our lives.

- **Why is it important that there's not even a hint of impurity in our lives?**
- **What is the connection between sexual sin and greed?**

## Day Four

# EPHESIANS 5:4

Scripture teaches that the things that come out of our mouths are a demonstration of what's in our hearts (Matt. 15:18). God's people are called to have clean hands and pure hearts—therefore, our words should be a reflection of that purity. After all, when we are saved, the Holy Spirit transforms our hearts and our desires. However, if the things we say are unkind, untrue, crude, or foolish, it shows that there are issues in our hearts. Further, it shows a lack of gratitude to God for His kindness and generosity. Our words are powerful, and we can use them to honor God and point others to Him, or we can bring Him dishonor and tear others down. As God's children, we must always speak intentionally, seeking to build others up and bring glory to God.

- **When have you seen the power of your words?**
- **On a scale of 1 (foolish and crude) to 10 (pure and useful), how would you rate your words? Why?**

## Day Five

# EPHESIANS 5:5



The ways we live have an eternal impact on our lives. We may think the ways we use our words, engaging in sexual sin, or being greedy may not be a big deal, but this couldn't be further from the truth. We are called to worship Jesus, and to allow these things into our lives indicates that we value those above Christ. This is idolatry, and the Bible is very clear that people who follow after idols have no place in God's kingdom. Today, make it a point to rid your life of all idols, and devote yourself wholeheartedly to Jesus!

- **What is idolatry?**
- **Why are sexual sin, foolish talk, and greed so serious that they keep people from heaven?**