

April 23 | Sunday

Learning to Love: Dating and Respect

Read [Philippians 2:1-4](#)



24 | Mon – Keep it pure | Read [Psalm 119:9-11](#)

This idea of purity applies to anyone at any age. The stereotype of being “pure” is sometimes seen as being uptight and unhappy, as well as judgemental of others. In reality, it is just living out God’s values. Verse 9 asks a valid question, “how?” The answer given in verse 11 is to live by [or conform to] God’s rule of conduct. It starts when you “treasure, store up, hide away” God’s word, moving it from print to your mind to your heart and then your actions. If you believe this, what area of your life might need you start with?

25 | Tue – The key to healthy relationships | Read [Matthew 5:27-30 and 33-37](#)

Jesus taught that a faithless heart deeply damages your relationships. Your integrity should not come and go; it should be absolutely trustworthy. The degree to which you can be trusted determines the quality of relationship you have with those you love. It starts by being honest, honest with yourself, honest with God. How well do you understand the inner and/or outer forces that tempt you to “shade” your words and promises to those you care about?

26 | Wed – Self serving | Read [Philippians 2:1-4](#)

Does “doing nothing out selfish motives” seem impossible, or at least an incredibly difficult thing to live up to? What are some of the healthy, productive ways you can put the best interests of others before your own because that is what Jesus has done for you? Doing what Jesus would do if he were in your shoes requires humility but making that choice gives you access to God’s strength and grace to take the high road.

27 | Thu – Freedom | Read [Galatians 5:13-26](#)

Culturally, many believe that freedom means you have the right to do what you want, make your own decisions and express your own opinions, regardless of the impact on others. Paul bluntly stated a painful truth - we all have selfish impulses which can actually end up enslaving us. The Holy Spirit can empower you to deny selfish desires and to love others the right way. In what areas will you invite the Holy Spirit to guide you by His power and principles?

28 | Fri – Taking advantage | Read [1 Thessalonians 4:1-8](#)

How has culture shaped your view of what is right and wrong sexually? Paul wrote to the Christians living in a Roman/Greek culture where lust and immorality were common. Taking advantage of others for selfish reasons was never questioned. Paul clearly stated that God was calling believers to break with their culture and live in new ways. How does this compare to what our culture teaches today? What specifically might God be calling you to do?

29 | Sat – The remedy | Read [1 John 2:1-6 and 15-17](#)

Christians are called to a higher standard. We are urged to live as Jesus did, without sin, and how could anyone who takes God seriously do anything less? Does that mean you will always be successful? No, and that is where the tension lies. When you do sin, there is a choice to be made. Ignore/deny it and move on or confess it and accept the costly gift of forgiveness Jesus offers. It is enough to cover *any* sin. Where in your life right now could you use some of that forgiveness?