



Family Circus

- God wants to be the **main attraction** in your home.

These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards." Matthew 7:24-27(MSG)

- Dating and marriage should be a **challenge**.
- Marriage doesn't solve our issues it **exposes** them.
- A healthy marriage is a **pure** marriage.

But 'God made them male and female' from the beginning of creation. 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one... Mark 10:6-8 (NLT)

"You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. Matthew 5:27-29 (NLT)

We strengthen our marriage when:

- We make adjustments **together**.
- The strength of your marriage isn't measured by your **feelings**, but rather your **commitment**.
- When it comes to your marriage, God is more concerned with your **direction** than **perfection**.

It's impossible to build a life that pleases God on a foundation of **sin**.

- Most people don't have **boundaries** that **protect** their marriage.

Purity: The absence of **toxins**.

4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Hebrews 13:4 (NIV)

4 Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex. Hebrews 13:4 (MSG)

8 Blessed are those whose thoughts are pure. They will see God. Matthew 5:8 (GWT)

Why impurity is increasing in marriage:

- We're acting on our **natural** desires.

5 And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. Colossians 3:5 (MSG)

- People are getting married **later**.

9 ...if you can't control yourselves, go ahead and marry. It is better to marry than to burn with lust. 1 Corinthians 7:9 (TLB)

3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity... Ephesians 5:3 (NIV)

8 Keep your distance from such a woman; absolutely stay out of her neighborhood. Proverbs 5:8 (MSG)

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God...For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 7 (NIV)

Our passions need **parameters**.

Flee from sexual immorality... You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NIV)

8 Blessed are those whose thoughts are pure. They will see God. Matthew 5:8 (GWT)

Action Steps to nurturing a pure heart:

- Ask **God** for a **clean** heart.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Psalm 51:10 (NLT)

- Make a commitment to God's **standard**.

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. Psalm 139:9 (NIV)

- Manage our **thoughts**.

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:28 (NIV)

1 I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully on a girl. Job 31:1 (NIV)

3 I will set before my eyes no vile thing. Psalm 101:3 (NIV)

- Magnify the **consequences**.

But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself. Proverbs 6:32 (NIV)

10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you find marriage to be challenging? Why?
- In your own words, why is this talk (this topic) so important to marriages?
- Read Hebrews 13:4; what does it mean to honor marriage?
- Why do passions need parameters?
- What does it mean to have boundaries that protect your marriage? What are boundaries that you have in your marriage?
- How do we live in a culture with little to no standards, while living by God's standards?
- Some consider the mind to be the greatest sexual organ. Do you agree with that? What role does our mind play in infidelity? What does it mean to you to manage your mind?
- What does it mean to magnify the consequences?
- Have you been praying for your spouse this week?

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Today's Talk..



“Staying Pure”