

# OUR PURSUIT AS IMAGE BEARERS IS PURITY

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN IMAGE BEARER  
SERIES: GOD IS THE IMAGE — I AM THE IMAGE BEARER

## BIG TRUTH: OUR PURSUIT AS IMAGE BEARERS IS PURITY

Psalms 73:1; 119:9; Proverbs 22:11; 2 Corinthians 6:4-6; 1 Timothy 4:12

## BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:17-20

*"But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."*

## BIG IDEAS

- Purity paves the way for intimacy with God.
- We must fight to flee sexual sin.
- We were bought with a price and are now free to serve God with a whole heart.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-20

## KNEEL - I AM AN IMAGE BEARER

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God's glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know that...

- They were created in God's image and likeness for the purpose of worship.
- Value, purpose, significance, and worth are found in and flow from God alone.



### Every student should feel...

- Awe that God created them in His own image.
- Loved by their heavenly Father who knows them better than they know themselves and still pursues them.



### Every student should strive to...

- Understand and embrace who God created them to be.
- Talk about gender and identity as a gift from the Lord for His purposes and His glory.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.



### Every student should want...

- To have a deeper relationship with the God who made them in His image.
- To pursue a lifestyle of worship that centers on the true Savior and rejects false saviors.

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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## BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:17-20

*“But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”*

### A believer's union with Christ is sacred.

*“But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him.”*

- When a person becomes a follower of Christ a supernatural union occurs. God sends His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, to live inside of each person who has repented and believed in Christ. This union is sacred and holy. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6 of this sacred union between God and His followers. Because God Himself dwells inside of each believer, our lives are no longer our own.
- Believers are joined with God in the Spirit. This supernatural work is done in the power of God as He places His Spirit inside of His people to empower them to become like Him. It is not something to be taken lightly or disregarded.

### A believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

*“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.”*

- Because the Holy Spirit lives inside of each believer, the bodies of Jesus followers are a type of temple. Our bodies are not our own. A Christian's body is one with Christ and what we do in our bodies now matters in the future.
- Living as a Christ follower means living each day aware that God is present with us. This should influence every decision we make, every word we say, and every action we take. As believers, there is never a time when God is not with us as He is present inside of us always.

### A believer is set free from sin to serve God fully.

*“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”*

- Paul reminds the Corinthian believers that their freedom from sin came at a high cost to Christ. Those who have been set free from their sin are free because of Christ's death on the cross. This is no small matter and should act as a catalyst for believers to live for Christ wholeheartedly.
- Because we are free from our sin, believers can live fully for God. Every believer has the power of the Holy Spirit inside of them and can flee all sin. We have the power to resist the temptation to sin because God Himself dwells inside of us.

# OUR PURSUIT AS IMAGE BEARERS IS PURITY

## BIG IDEA #1: PURITY PAVES THE WAY FOR INTIMACY WITH GOD.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

As we pursue God, we will also pursue purity. Biblical purity is to be holy in our thoughts and actions toward God and others. Pursuing this holiness is part of being a follower of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-20, Paul addresses this pursuit and focuses on sexual purity. As a believer seeks to keep oneself clean of sin, he or she should seek to be sexually pure. Sexual sin is any sexual action outside of the confines of marriage. God has ordained sex as an act between a husband and wife and anything else is sin. Sexual sin is against God and our own bodies. Sexual union within marriage has a positive spiritual aspect and works to unite a husband and wife as one flesh. Because believers are united with God in the Spirit, their bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Impurity affects a believer's relationship with God.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-20. Practically, how can you treat your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit?**

In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and 6:19, Paul teaches that a believer's body is the temple of God. Luke 22:40 teaches us to pray to resist temptation and we should actively seek to resist temptation so that we are not overcome. Being the temple of the Holy Spirit means we seek to glorify God always. This means that we are always aware that God is present and this should influence our treatment of others and the way we live our daily lives. We should seek to put on the fruit of the Spirit and to obey God's Word.

### [ THIS ]

1 Corinthians 6:17 emphasizes the union of the believer to God through the Holy Spirit. The indwelling of a believer with the Holy Spirit creates an intimate relationship between God and the believer. This intimacy grows as we grow in our knowledge and understanding of God. Sin hinders the level of intimacy we have with God. When we pursue purity, or holiness, we are pursuing intimacy with God. The Christian's pursuit should be intimacy with God and holiness is necessary to achieve this. Paul admonishes the Corinthian believers to be pure so that they might live with God in a righteous way. This should be every believer's pursuit.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read 1 Peter 3:8-12. How can you pursue purity in your daily life?**

These verses reveal the way that a believer can pursue holiness in their daily life. When we seek to please God above all else, we are pursuing holiness and seeking to be pure. When we set aside our selfish desires and put others first, we are pursuing holiness. As a believer turns away from evil and seeks to do good, he or she will achieve intimacy with God because their hearts will be pure.

**How have you experienced intimacy with God and how has sin hindered your intimacy with God?**

Proverbs 8:17 and Jeremiah 29:13 teach us that when we seek God, we will find Him. We will know God in an intimate way when we seek Him and keep His commandments.

James 1:22-24 teaches us that our intimacy with God is hindered when we hear His Word but do not obey it, or when we say one thing with our mouths, but our actions reveal something else.

1. 1 Corinthians 6:9-20: Believers are washed and justified by the blood of Jesus Christ.

# OUR PURSUIT AS IMAGE BEARERS IS PURITY

## BIG IDEA #2: WE MUST FIGHT TO FLEE SEXUAL SIN.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In 1 Corinthians 6:18, Paul tells the Corinthians to flee sexual immorality. The command to flee implies the gravity of the consequences of sexual sin. Because God designed sex to be a unifying act that is spiritual in nature, it is impossible to engage in sex without sacrificing something of ourselves. This means that sexual immorality, especially for the believer, is a sin against our very personhood. Paul's admonishment also implies the great temptation that we all face concerning sexual sin. We are not told merely to do better or to resist. We are told to flee it. This means to not trust ourselves to make the right choice in a tempting situation, but instead to remove ourselves from even being in a place of temptation.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### What habits help you resist the temptation to sin?

Colossians 3:5 tells believers to put to death what is earthly in us. This means that we should daily make it a practice to die to our fleshly desires. 2 Corinthians 10:5 teaches us to take our thoughts captive to God in order to obey Him. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 and 1 Corinthians 3:5 teach of the believer's responsibility to resist the temptation to sin and of the power God gives to resist and flee that temptation.

### [ THIS ]

Many places in Scripture we see the call to resist the temptation to sin. In 1 Corinthians 10:13, we are reminded that there is no temptation we'll face that we cannot overcome with the power of the Holy Spirit. Resisting sexual sin requires a person to actively fight against it. The way believers fight against sexual sin is to submit to and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. Sexual sin is grievous and leads a person down the road to destruction. In order to pursue purity, a believer must fight to flee from any and all sexual sin. By seeking God first and keeping our minds set on Him and things above, we can flee from sexual sin and live holy and pure lives.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### Read Psalm 119:9-16. How does a knowledge and love of God's Word help you fight to flee sexual sin?

In verses 9-16 of Psalm 119, the psalmist answers the question: how can a young man live a pure life? His answer is to use God's Word to guard his heart and to seek God with his whole heart. When we place our focus on God's Word, store it in our hearts, and seek God above all else, we will fall more and more in love with Him. When we love God and His Word, we will fight our hardest to keep ourselves pure because of the intimate relationship we have with God.

#### What are some consequences of not fighting to flee sexual sin?

In Matthew 5:32, we see that divorce is a consequence of sexual immorality. When a married person commits sexual immorality, he or she breaks the marriage covenant. 1 Peter 2:11 teaches us that sexual immorality wages war against our very souls and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 warns us that those who practice all types of sexual immorality will not inherit the kingdom of God. This means that those whose habit is sexual immorality reveal that they do not truly have saving faith.

2. 1 Corinthians 6:18: Paul commands believers to flee sexual sin. Jesus commands us to resist all temptation.

# OUR PURSUIT AS IMAGE BEARERS IS PURITY

## BIG IDEA #3: WE WERE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE AND ARE NOW FREE TO SERVE GOD WITH A WHOLE HEART.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

1 Corinthians 6:20 reminds us that our freedom from sin was not free. Though there is nothing we do as sinners to earn our salvation, our salvation was paid for by the life and blood of Jesus Christ. Death was required in order to set sinners free from their sin natures. Because God willingly sent His only Son to pay our sin debt and Christ willingly died on the cross, all those who repent and believe in Christ are set free from the enslavement of their sin nature. Paul reminds the Corinthians believers of this great truth as he teaches them and admonishes them to pursue holiness. We should pursue holiness and purity, especially where sexual immorality is concerned, because Jesus died on the cross. We are set free and can resist the temptation to sin.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **Why do we often forget the price that was paid for our freedom and instead choose slavery?**

Galatians 3:13-15 reminds us of the great price paid for our sin debt and the freedom we receive because Christ died on the cross. Though this price was paid for our sin, we often live out 1 Corinthians 7:23 by enslaving ourselves to sin again. Romans 6:16 teaches us that we are slaves to whatever and whomever we obey. If we obey our sin natures, we are slaves to it. If we obey God, we are slaves to Him. We are set free to live for God and obey His Word.

#### **How has the knowledge that you were bought with a price encourage you to obey God's Word?**

John 14:21 teaches that those who love God keep His commandments. When we remember the great price paid for our sin debt, we are overwhelmed by God's grace and desire to obey Him. Romans 6:22 also teaches us that our freedom from sin leads to our obedience and growth in God. 2 Corinthians 9:8 teaches us the power of God's grace in our lives when we live knowing that we have been purchased with a price.

### [ THIS ]

Jesus died on the cross to set us free from our sin nature. His blood paid the necessary price to make us free and to pave the way for us to have intimacy with God. Though we are free from our sin nature, we are set free to serve God wholly and completely with our lives. We are forgiven to obey God and bring Him glory with our lives. Because we have been bought with a price, we are free to serve God with our whole heart. We are transformed and renewed and can obey God's Word fully.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What can you specifically do this week to live for God with your whole heart?**

2 Timothy 2:15 teaches us to do our very best to live for God and to be prepared and ready to do the good works He has prepared for us. Psalm 100:2 shows us that when we are set free from our sin debt, we can serve God with joy and gladness because we are no longer enslaved or held back by our sinfulness. 1 Peter 4:10-11 reminds us that every person who is redeemed is given spiritual gifts to be used in the church. When we live in the freedom that Christ purchased with His life, we can use our spiritual gifts for God's church to bring Him glory.

3. 1 Corinthians 6:20: Our freedom from sin cost Christ His life and God His only Son. We are set free to serve God completely and fully with our whole hearts.