

PSALM 119 : 9-11

HOLINESS – COMMANDS TO OBEY

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

How do you think people view the word 'purity' in our culture? Consider how it is used in adverts, for example, or in workplaces.

Is there a danger that it is seen as unattractive, even in the church, to seek a life of purity? Why?



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Read Psalm 119 : 9-11

How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

- Of course, these verses are not just for young people (v.9), but for all those seeking wisdom. What do you think it might mean for believers to seek to 'stay on the path of purity' in 21st century Croydon? What challenges are we up against?
- **The second part of verse 9** says that we need to live according to God's word in order to be pure. What needs to happen for us to do this - to our attitude, and our daily habits?

- The Bible teaches us to be 'wholehearted' in our pursuit of God, and this is reinforced in **verse 10**. In what ways do you think we may fall short of being wholehearted in our walk as believers? Can you think of biblical examples of wholehearted living?



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- Look at **Psalm 119 verse 2**. How does it work together with **verse 10**? What do you think it means to be blessed, when keeping God's commands might result in rejection or even persecution?
- Look at **verse 11**. How did Jesus model what this verse says in his encounter with Satan in the wilderness?
(See Matthew 4 : 1-11 for a reminder).

- As we begin this New Year at Emmanuel with a focus on the Bible, how do you think you might as a small group find new ways to 'hide the word in your heart'?

Why is it important that we learn to do this, according to the Psalmist (**v11**)?



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GOING DEEPER

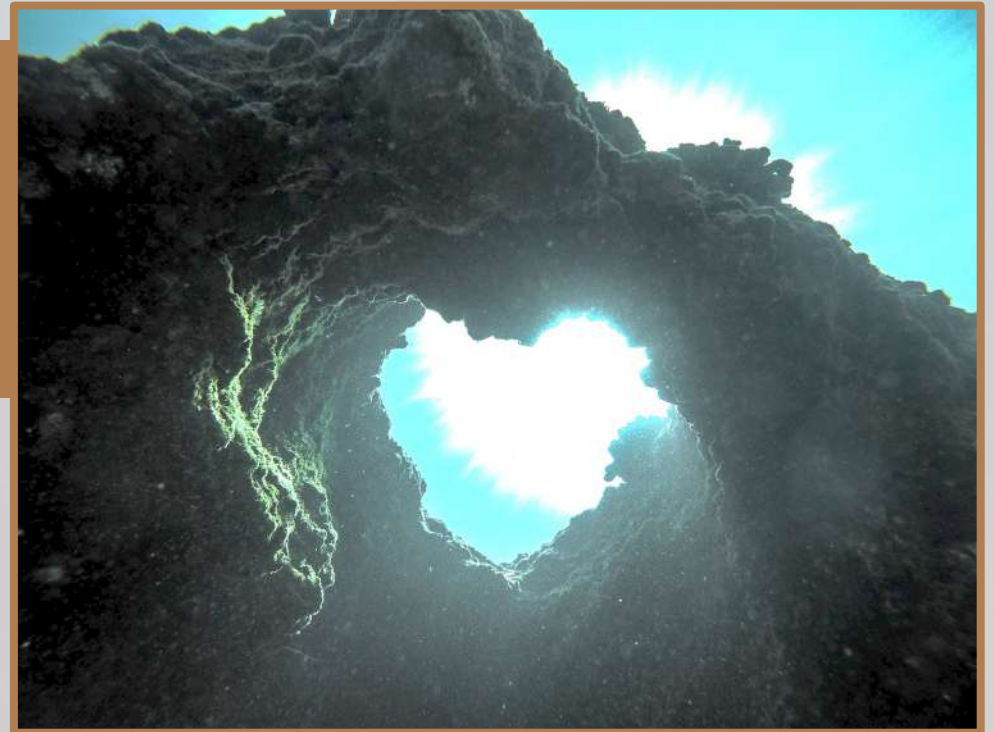
Build up a picture of biblical purity in our daily lives from the following verses:

What do they teach us?

1 Peter 1 : 15-16; 1 Corinthians 6 : 18

Ezekiel 45 : 10; 2 Corinthians 10 : 5

Ephesians 4 : 29; 1 Corinthians 10 : 31



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HOLINESS – COMMANDS TO OBEY

WATCH | PRAY

WATCH

Use this song
as a prayer in your group
(Chris Tomlin – Take my life)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0Byp7aK2DA>



PRAY

These verses are specifically addressed to the young people learning from the teachers of wisdom. Of course, we know from the rest of Scripture that they are applicable to us also. But take some time as a small group to pray for the young people of Emmanuel Church – that they would understand the freedom and sacrifice that come from the call to live a life of purity.

Pray for the other thoughts that have come up from your discussions through this study. Ask God to teach us what it means to live lives of attractive purity.