

PURITY OF THOUGHT

LESSON 5: RED LETTER BUSINESS

The spiritual life is the life of Christ reproduced in the life of the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit in obedient response to the Word of God.

– DR. HOWARD HENDRICKS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

Joe works in an administrative group in a company doing accounts receivable. Larry, his boss and the CFO of the company is a really good man to work with and for. In Joe's mind one of the most appealing qualities about Larry is that he is not shy about his faith – even at work. Over time Joe has noticed that Larry has spent more time with his executive assistant, Jane. In fact, he has noticed that nowadays Jane is in Larry's office with the door closed. They often go to lunch together and come back together. Joe gets the sense they are hiding something, and he is not alone. Sometimes Larry's wife drops by the office and asks Joe where Larry is, and this really makes Joe uncomfortable. The whole group is getting more uncomfortable every day.

- Q. How would you counsel Joe in dealing with his Christian boss?
- Q. How would you imagine these situations begin?
- Q. What temptations exist in the workplace and why are they so enticing?
- Q. What are some ideas to guard against this happening in the workplace?

MATTHEW 5:27-30

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, 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. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Here Jesus gives another example of a core change in our thinking and who we are vs. what we do. Purity of thought is one of the biggest challenges for men. Period. At the beginning of the sermon Jesus blesses the pure in heart because they will see God! Purity of heart is the gateway for our vision

of God. Our lustful thoughts keep us from a clear view. A clear view of God is paramount to intimate fellowship with Him to the degree that Jesus states our physical bodies are nothing in comparison.

- Q. Why is adultery such an intrusive sin?
- Q. How do we make purity of thought a priority?
- Q. What are some ways that you have been successful in purity of thought?
- Q. What are some practical ways that we can guard our hearts?

PSALM 119:9-11

⁹ *How can a young person stay on the path of purity?*

By living according to your word.

¹⁰ *I seek you with all my heart;*

do not let me stray from your commands.

¹¹ *I have hidden your word in my heart*

that I might not sin against you.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

¹³ *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted[a] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

DANIEL 11:32

³² *And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will be strong and take action.*