

CHARACTER STUDY

SEX, MONEY & PRIDE

G4 DISCIPLESHIP
NETWORK

Sex, Money and Pride

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

The world is passing away and also its lust. That sounds so great but is different than many of our experiences. Seems like the lust continues to rage. The passage above seems to accentuate the lives of many men. We struggle with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life. One practical theologian said it this way. Men struggle with **GIRLS**, **GOLD** and **GLORY**. Do you identify?

In this study we are going to be addressing these three areas. We are trying something new as well. We have been plunking around with **ChatGPT** and have included their response to questions that Christian men are asking. Take a highlighter or pen and mark up their response if you agree or disagree with their findings. Here is the first one:

Why should Christian men avoid the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life? (Agree or Disagree)

ChatGPT

The phrase "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life" comes from the Bible, specifically from 1 John 2:16. In this passage, John warns against three temptations that can lead us away from God and towards sin.

The lust of the flesh refers to desires related to physical pleasure, such as sexual immorality, gluttony, and substance abuse. The lust of the eyes refers to desires related to material possessions and wealth, such as greed, envy, and materialism. Finally, the boastful pride of life refers to desires related to status, power, and recognition, such as arrogance, selfish ambition, and a desire for fame or influence.

Christian men are called to avoid these temptations because they can lead us away from God and towards sin. When we give in to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the boastful pride of life, we are putting our own desires and wants above God's will for our lives. This can damage our relationship with God, as well as our relationships with others.

Furthermore, these temptations can have negative consequences for ourselves and those around us. For example, giving into the lust of the flesh can lead to sexual immorality and other harmful behaviors that can damage our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Similarly, giving into the lust of the eyes or the boastful pride of life can lead to greed, selfishness, and a lack of empathy towards others.

In summary, Christian men are called to avoid the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life in order to stay aligned with God's will for their lives, maintain healthy relationships with others, and avoid the negative consequences of sin.

Sexual Purity

Why should a Christian man avoid sexual temptation? (Agree or Disagree)

ChatGPT

From a Christian perspective, sexual temptation is seen as a sin that goes against God's commandments. The Bible teaches that sexual activity should only occur within the context of marriage between a man and a woman. Therefore, engaging in sexual activity outside of marriage, including through temptation, is considered a violation of this commandment.

Additionally, sexual temptation can lead to a variety of negative consequences, both for the individual and those around them. For instance, engaging in sexual activity outside of marriage can lead to unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and emotional turmoil. Furthermore, engaging in sexual temptation can damage one's relationships with God and others, and can lead to feelings of guilt, shame, and regret.

As a result, it is important for Christian men to avoid sexual temptation in order to uphold their moral and spiritual values, maintain their physical and emotional health, and preserve their relationships with God and others. This can be done through various means, such as prayer, seeking support from fellow Christians, avoiding situations that may lead to temptation, and seeking professional help if necessary.

Sex Study

For many men, sexual purity is the first major sin challenge of their lives and many of us carry that struggle to the grave. We are not sure that purity is even possible. One guy says it this way, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are addicted to porn". This study is intended to help you work through this battle that all men deal with at some level. There is a pathway to purity.

Psalms 119:9-11

Ephesians 4:17-24

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Matthew 5:27-30

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Ephesians 5:3

Romans 13:13-14

Hebrews 13:4

1 John 2:15-17

1 Corinthians 10:13

1 Peter 2:11-12

Proverbs 5:1-14

Proverbs 5:15-21

Proverbs 7:6-27

Romans 12:1-2

Hebrews 12:1-2

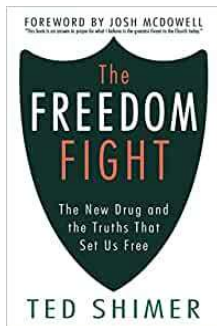
Personal Reflection

How am I doing in this area?

What are my biggest challenges?

What do I need to do differently?

Resources for pornography addiction



www.thefreedomfight.org (check out their 30-Day Challenge)

The Freedom Fight by Ted Shimer

“Pornography must be combated on multiple fronts. Approaching it only from a spiritual dimension only multiplies the shame. We must know the brain science so we can more effectively renew our minds (Romans 12:2).”
Ted Shimer

Stewardship with Money

Why should a Christian man be a good steward of his money? (Agree or Disagree)

ChatGPT

In Christianity, the concept of stewardship refers to the idea that everything we have, including our finances, is a gift from God and entrusted to us for a purpose. As such, Christian men are called to be good stewards of their money, using it in a responsible and intentional manner that reflects their faith and values.

There are several reasons why being a good steward of money is important for Christian men. First and foremost, it honors God and shows gratitude for the blessings He has given. By being responsible with our finances, we acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from Him and that we are accountable for how we use it.

Secondly, being a good steward of money can help us to achieve financial security and stability. This can allow us to better care for ourselves, our families, and those in need, as well as to pursue our goals and aspirations.

Thirdly, being a good steward of money can also enable us to support the work of the church and other charitable organizations, which can have a positive impact on our communities and the world at large.

In summary, being a good steward of money is important for Christian men because it honors God, promotes financial security and stability, and allows us to support important causes and organizations.

Stewardship Study

What is Stewardship?

Psalms 24:1-2 says, “The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, the world, and those who live in it. For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.”

They say a great definition of worship is tied up in the idea that God is great, and worship is just acting accordingly. We acknowledge His greatness. Stewardship is similar. The Scripture says God owns all things, stewardship is just acknowledging that and simply living like God owns it all. What would change in your finances if you thought of yourself as the manager of what God has given you to manage, and He is the owner of all that you “own”?

What is your definition of Stewardship?

We would like you to consider becoming a Generous Steward. That requires a few things.

1. To be God-centered in your finances
2. To be well-managed in your finances
3. To be generous to give of your finances to advance God's Kingdom

Let's think through these:

- 1) Are you **God-centered** in your finances? To what would you point to prove this in your life? Think of specific proofs if there are any.
- 2) Are you **well-managed** in your finances?
 - Do you have a **WORKING BUDGET**? See Proverbs 21:5.
 - Are you reaching your **GIVING** goals? See 2 Corinthian 9:6-7.
 - Are you **SAVING** for the future? See Proverbs 21:20.
 - Are you **MANAGING DEBT** well? See Proverbs 22:7.
 - Are you protecting your family with **INSURANCES**? See Proverbs 27:12.
 - Are you protecting your family with an **ESTATE PLAN**? See Proverbs 13:22.
 - Do you have **INTEGRITY IN YOUR FINANCIAL DEALINGS**? See Proverbs 28:6.
- 3) Are you **generous** toward God's Kingdom?

The average believer is giving 1-3% of their income. And this is a huge issue in the church with our responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission. What is your goal in generosity? How has it changed over the last few years? Look up each of these Scripture references and write down what each one speaks to you about generosity.

Psalms 24:1-2

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

Proverbs 3:9-10

Numbers 18:25-32

Proverbs 11:25

Malachi 3:6-10

John 3:16

Matthew 6:19-21

Matthew 25:14-30

Mark 12:41-44

Luke 6:38

Luke 11:42

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Ephesians 1:7-8

Philippians 1:3-5

Philippians 4:15-19

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Where should we invest Kingdom Funds?

In the New Testament, there are at least seven key areas believers are expected to give. A helpful acronym to remember is **WELCOME**.

- **Widows and orphans** - James 1:27
- **Elderly parents** - I Timothy 5:3-16 (focus on verse 8), Mark 7:9-13
- **Local church** - Acts 4:36-37, 1 Timothy 5:17-18, Acts 13:1-3, 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, Galatians 6:6-10, I Timothy 5:3-16
- **Christians** - Acts 2:43-47, 4:32-35, 6:1-6; 2 Corinthians 8, 2 Corinthians 9, James 2:14-17, 1 John 3:16-18
- **The pOor** - Matthew 6:2-4
- **Missions** - 1 Corinthians 9, 3 John 5-8, Romans 15:22-24, Acts 15:3, Titus 3:13-14, 1 Corinthians 16:5-6
- **Evangelism and Discipleship** - Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Matthew 5:13-16, Hebrews 13:2, Ephesians 2:10

We encourage each believer to pray about *how much* God would have them give, and then pray about *where* He wants them to give.

Personal Reflection

How am I doing in this area?

What are my biggest challenges?

What do I need to do differently?

Resources for Financial Stewardship



Freedom 5:one Ministries is a faith-based financial coaching group that helps families develop a personal financial plan to be healthy in their finances and live with a Biblical view of stewardship. One of the ministry's focuses is inspiring generosity in the Body of Christ toward Kingdom things. Finances are a well-known but silent stressor in Christian families. Our ministry attempts to come alongside people who need help with their finances. Some need help getting organized, some need help working through a crisis, while others just need a fresh set of eyes. The name of our ministry is inspired by a verse in Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (NIV). Developing a working financial plan and implementing a generosity strategy brings freedom. For more information (www.freedom5one.com)

Pride

Why should a Christian man avoid pride? (Agree or Disagree)

ChatGPT

In Christianity, pride is considered a sin that goes against God's commandments. Pride involves an excessive focus on oneself, an inflated sense of self-importance, and a lack of humility. As such, Christian men are called to avoid pride and instead cultivate a spirit of humility and selflessness.

There are several reasons why avoiding pride is important for Christian men. First and foremost, pride can lead to a variety of negative consequences, both for the individual and those around them. For instance, pride can lead to arrogance, selfishness, and a lack of empathy towards others. This can damage one's relationships with God and others, and can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Secondly, pride can prevent us from acknowledging our dependence on God and recognizing His role in our lives. It can lead us to believe that we are solely responsible for our successes and achievements, rather than recognizing the role that God has played in our lives.

Finally, pride can prevent us from learning and growing, as it can cause us to reject feedback and constructive criticism, and can prevent us from acknowledging our weaknesses and areas for improvement.

In summary, avoiding pride is important for Christian men because it promotes humility, empathy, and dependence on God, and enables us to learn and grow as individuals.

Pride Study

“Pride comes before the fall” is how the old saying goes. And we all know exactly what that means. We have probably experienced it personally and we have definitely seen it around us. In fact, we probably enjoy it when we see it in others, especially the arrogant. Nobody likes a know-it-all and we secretly like when they are put in their place. Yet, this is one of the main struggles that we all face: PRIDE. How do we get over ourselves and think rightly about ourselves. Humility seems to be that nano second of balance as we swing from the extremes of pride and shame.

Ps 90:10

Prov 8:13

Prov 11:2

Prov 16:18

Prov 21:24

Prov 29:23

Prov 15:33

Prov 18:12

Prov 22:4

Mark 7:20-23

1 Cor 4:6-13

2 Cor 5:11-12

Eph 4:1-3

Phil 2:3-11

Col 3:12-14

James 1:21-22

1 Pet 5:5-11

Personal Reflection

How am I doing in this area?

What are my biggest challenges?

What do I need to do differently?

Resources for Dealing with Pride

