

## God Time Day 1: The First Marriage



In the beginning, God made everything good. Adam and Eve lived without fear and without shame, with no need to hide or be embarrassed about anything. Nothing marred their union or came between them. But once sin entered the picture, everything changed.



Grab your Bible and read Genesis 3:1-12.

Adam and Eve’s immediate response was to cover up and hide. They knew they had done wrong. Besides that, Adam immediately tried to pass the blame from himself on to God (“*the woman you gave me*” v 12).

For those of us who follow God, our marriages should look more like Adam and Eve’s BEFORE sin and shame, when there was no need to hide and blame.



Pray that you take such a hold of God’s forgiveness that sin and shame lose their hold over your relationships.

## God Time Day 2: Confide, Don’t Hide



Read Ephesians 5:3  
*But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you, as is proper for saints.*

Underline the words, “*should not even be heard of.*”

This doesn’t mean we don’t talk about it to hide it, but that there’s nothing to talk about in the first place.

But what about when there is something to talk about?



Read Proverbs 28:13  
*The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.*

Do you need to do some confiding rather than hiding? Confess your sins now to God! Do you need to confide in someone? What is your plan to change?

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## God Time Day 3: Jesus Moves the Line



Our world tries to define the boundaries of morality and purity, but the scale tends to move – just look at movie ratings. Yet, even back in Bible times, human-drawn boundaries rarely had anything to do with what was in a person’s heart. But that was never God’s intent as Jesus points out...



Read Matthew 5:27-28.

*<sup>27</sup>You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery. <sup>28</sup>But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*



Where does Jesus draw the line on purity?

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How should that affect our definition of purity?

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The defining difference between focusing on action and focusing on the heart is how we approach questionable thoughts and behaviors. The action approach attempts to see just how close we can get to the line without “technically” crossing it. The heart approach focuses on rooting out anything which even “hints” at impurity (remember yesterday’s verse?).



Read Proverbs 5:8.

*Keep your way far from her. Don’t go near the door of her house.*

Solomon’s wise instructions to his son about avoiding immorality was to keep far away, don’t even get close. The closer you get to the fire, the more likely you’ll get burned.

In a world where even “news” sites have “articles” about celebrities in bikinis, on a scale of 1-5 how well do you guard yourself against impurity?

(Wondering Eyes) 1 2 3 4 5 (Locked Down)



Plan for how you can practically improve your commitment to purity, especially in marriage:

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## God Time Day 4: Stay Pure in an Impure World



One of the best ways to stay pure in an impure world is to fill our heart, mind, and time with God's Word – leaving no room for impurity.



Read Psalm 119:9-11

<sup>9</sup>*How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping your word.*  
<sup>10</sup>*I have sought you with all my heart; don't let me wander from your commands.* <sup>11</sup>*I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.*

We sometimes hear this principle expressed in sports terms: “the best defense is a good offense.” The more time my team has the ball, the less opportunity there is for the opponents to score. Similarly, the more time and energy we give to God's Word, the less room there is for worldly thoughts and values to take hold.



We see this expressed in these two passages of the New Testament.

- Matthew 6:24  
*No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17  
<sup>16</sup>*All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*



Honestly, how much daily time and energy do you devote to God's Word on your own and with your spouse (if applicable)?

On my own: \_\_\_\_\_ With my spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

What does this say about my/our commitment to purity?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Pray for purity of heart, mind, and time.

## God Time Day 5: Pure Intimacy



Throughout this series, we have focused on vows that help develop healthy Christian marriages. We've looked at ways to prioritize, pursue, and partner with our spouses, and how to wrap it all in an atmosphere of purity.



What this all boils down to is *intimacy*. While people often mistake the word “intimacy” to have only sexual connotations, the word means much more than that. At its core, intimacy is about a close personal and private association, a relationship built on mutual trust and confidence. True intimacy would look like what Adam and Eve had, not only with each other, but also with God, before their sin and subsequent shame.

Developing this type of pure intimacy takes intentionality. It's a bit like entering the ocean. Before you swim in the depths, you get your toes wet, then wade out further and further until you begin to float. In other words, intimacy starts with small things. (For example, having simple conversations of trust before dumping heavy baggage.)

Once this solid relationship and foundation has been established, a couple is better prepared to handle the stormy seas of life. It's not always smooth sailing but when a couple feels mutual trust and confidence, the waves aren't so overwhelming.

Whether you're married or not, building an atmosphere of pure intimacy is a crucial skill to have. Start with these things (in no particular order):

1. Prayer (James 5:16)
2. Grace (Colossians 4:6)
3. Mercy (Luke 6:36)
4. Forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32)
5. Accepting responsibility (Galatians 6:7-8)



Choose one or two to “get your toes wet.” Commit to working on them together and add as you are able.

Take a vow of purity on page 24.