



## The Principle of Purity

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**Focus** God has a principle of purity for relationship with Him. When we keep God's second commandment to have no images or idols, our lives are free from bondage and our generations are blessed.

**Fun** What fun things do you enjoy doing that are free of cost?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Deuteronomy 18:9–11, 14–15; Exodus 20:4–6; Colossians 1:15; Genesis 1:26; Acts 3:22

### 1. The Danger of Impurity

*Exodus 20:4*

God fashioned us in His image and put His Spirit in us. God warned the Israelites as they went into the pagan land of Canaan to not make carved images. Any mixture of images and idols will bring impurity in our relationship with Jesus. To imagine doing something other than what God has provided is to create an idol.

### 2. The Consequences of Impurity

*Exodus 20:5*

Images will take you into bondage. God allows iniquities to visit generations of people who hate Him so that they will consider the consequences of the sin, seek God, and break the curse.

### 3. The Blessings of Purity

*Exodus 20:6; Deuteronomy 7:9*

God shows mercy to generations who love Him and keep His commandments. All of God's laws are for us to have a pure relationship with Him as He blesses us.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Group members may need help to break generational curses in their lives. If members desire more time for personal ministry, encourage them to spend time in prayer at home as well as at church. Remind them about all the resources available to them: altar ministry after church services, Equip classes, and freedom and healing ministry.

## **Discuss**

1. Read Genesis 1:26 and Colossians 1:15. Why does a pure relationship enable us to see Jesus as the image of the invisible God? We are made in God's image and God put His Spirit in us. Why does this conflict with carved images?
2. Image is the root word of imagination. What causes an imagination to form an idol? How does an idol cause weakness and an impure relationship with God?
3. Read Exodus 20:5 and Ezekiel 18:14 and 17. Explain why God allows iniquity to "visit" future generations.
4. How does idol worship bring deadly consequences, as described in Psalm 106:36–38?
5. In Judges 3:7, the Israelites forgot God and served the pagan gods Asherah and Baal. Name some ways this happens in modern society. How does keeping God's commands maintain purity in our relationship with Him?
6. Read Exodus 20:5. Describe the difference between the good jealousy that God has for us and selfish jealousy that is of the flesh.

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- Although seven of God's commands start with "You shall not," they're there for us to be blessed and protected so we can walk in a pure relationship with Him.
- God chose us for a personal relationship with Him through Jesus.
- God warns us to not get involved in images or imaginations. He has fashioned us in His image and put His Spirit in us.
- When we love God, we keep His commandments, and He shows us mercy for thousands of generations.

**Prayer**

Father, You have made us in Your image here on earth. Holy Spirit, show each of us any image not of You that we have allowed in our life. We repent and no longer serve it. We give it to you and now receive your deliverance. Thank You for sealing us into a pure relationship with You. We praise You for generations to come who will serve You only. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Fellowship is vital for group success. Plan a movie night or an outing to a sports event so members can enjoy uninterrupted camaraderie.