



Sunday 12th June 2016

Cathy DeWitt

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God”

Matthew 5:8

There is currently an epidemic of pornography in our community – it is bad for health, wellbeing and relationships. It fills lives with guilt and shame. It can affect men and women of all ages. It changes the brain’s pathways and kills love. Partners feel devalued and hurt.

1. How do you see the impact of this epidemic in the community?
2. Describe some of the ways you think pornography is changing the way our world views love, relationships and intimacy.
3. What does the Bible say to us about love and intimacy? The good news is God is interested in our health, wellbeing and relationships. His Father heart is not for guilt and shame.
4. Can you think of a time when you have felt guilt and shame? What did you find helpful to deal with this? Cathy told us our lives should be like a river where God’s love flows through us to others. We don’t want to be like dams, receiving Christ then blocking it to keep to ourselves
5. How can God use you to share his Father’s heart for his children caught in the grip of pornography?
6. How can we as a community create safe spaces and trusting relationships to discuss these issues? There are a number of Bible verses to inspire us to pursue purity as well as Matthew 5:8.





(Combining holiness and happiness) 1 John 1:7 2 Timothy 2:22 Romans 12:2

Read all these verses and discuss what a pure heart looks like.

(Pure in Greek is katharos- blameless, clean, unstained) Eg intentions, thoughts, reactions and emotions (anger ,unkindness, judgemental attitude), hypocrisy, deception.

1. What areas of your heart might you need God to refine so it is pure?
2. Could you describe yourself as someone who has an uncompromising desire to please God? Is this something you desire?
3. If you see your heart as Christ's home, how could this help motivate you to keep your heart clean and pure?
4. What might it look like to flee from temptation in today's world?
5. Practically does this verse (Matt 5:8) cause you to consider changing any TV programme you watch, radio station you listen to, how you could better spend your time sometimes, reactions to people even when you are tired.
6. What does it mean to you to see God? Cathy reminded us that these challenges are more easily overcome if we look towards what we are saying YES to (purity; freedom; best love story with Jesus) rather than what we are saying NO to.
7. How can you help others find value in this YES? As a church family we need to have the difficult conversations with those around us. We need to be talking to our children and grandchildren, equipping them for the decisions they'll need to make someday. Let's fill their tanks with Godly wisdom.
8. If this is a bit awkward, how can you equip yourself for the conversations to be had?
9. Check out these websites for help: **fightthenewdrug.org** or **moralrevolution.org**

If you or someone you know needs help with this, seek help – chat to a friend, one of the ministry team or your small group leaders.

