

Pure for Life Relational Ministry

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As a group leader, I was frustrated with the guys in my group falling day after day or cycling ever two weeks or after a month and began seeking the Lord for wisdom. What follows is the wisdom I received.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV), “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

Part of our job, as group leaders, is to encourage our guys and build them up, so they can gain freedom from sexual sin and revive their relationship with the Lord!

Hebrews 3:12-13 (NKJV), “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

As leaders, we need to exhort our guys DAILY.

The Greek word that is translated as “exhort” is “parakaleho”, which has multiple meanings:

Encourage – encourage them to continue in their purity and developing a stronger relationship with the Lord through daily Bible study, prayer, worship...

Comfort – extend words of comfort (not condemnation) when they fall. There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus, so we need to love them out of the hole. Remind them that guilt, shame, and condemnation are from satan, not God. God loves them in the middle of the muck.

Instruct/Teach – give them scriptures to memorize and hold them accountable, books to read, events or classes to attend. All instruction should be edifying and uplifting.

Strengthen – let them know that they are doing great and you are proud of them, tell them to keep calling upon the Holy Spirit to strengthen them.

We are all busy, so what I recommend and what I’m doing is to text my guys each morning at 7 am.

I have them divided into groups of 2 in a group text. It’s a little more work for me, but they get fewer total texts. I exhort them in my text and encourage them to exhort each other.

My text consists of a good morning, asking how their yesterday was – any acting out. I give my report and a little about my day. Then I include 1 to 3 scriptures to encourage and instruct. To save time, I copy and paste the same text into each group. Takes me 5 minutes at most.

Here is an example of an actual text:

Good Wednesday morning, my friends. How was yesterday - any acting out? None for me. Had a meeting with Steve and then with my Pastor. Nice evening with my wife. Proverbs 3:5, 1 Peter 1:13-15, 2 Peter 1:3. See you tonight!

What has been the result?

I've got four guys who haven't been able to go two weeks without falling and all of them are at three weeks or more. They all say that it's the daily accountability and encouragement.

The other thing I've encouraged is that they not look at this as one day at a time or trying to get to 2 weeks or 30 days or a year, but Pure for Life.

I've been teaching them that all actions start with thoughts and if they can keep their thoughts pure, their actions will follow. I've had them print these scriptures on index cards and to memorize them:

Philippians 4:8, "Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right and pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and praiseworthy."

2 Corinthians 10, "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."

I also encourage and hold them accountable to do the daily devotional.

In almost every text I remind them that our goal is Pure for Life!

I also have periodic conversations with the guys to build relationship.

I want to encourage you to exhort your guys daily, so that they will not become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Pure for Life!