

# **The Four Priorities Chapter 9**

**Book by John Tolson**

**Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church**

## Chapter 9: Physical Assets – Sexual Control

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**Note:** The timelines below are only a guide, as well as the questions to ask. Make this your own and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Take your time and, when needed, break this chapter into several meetings.

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### Open (10 min.)

Spend a few minutes each week catching up with one another, then share prayer requests.

**Do:** Ask the one you are discipling to open up the meeting with prayer. It is important to give them opportunities to practice praying in a safe and encouraging environment. Help build their confidence.

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### Recap (2 min.)

Briefly give a summary of your meeting last week.

- We discussed the topic of keeping our bodies healthy.
- We discussed additional topics such as work, the need to rest, and the eternal outcome of our physical bodies through the anticipated resurrection.

**Ask:** What did you think about differently this past week regarding these topics? Have you made any plans to work and rest differently? (*Consider sharing some of your own thoughts.*)

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### Chapter discussion, pgs.91, (45 min-1 hour)

**Say:** The author opens with a modern-day affair, based on the writings from King David's own life, recorded in 2 Samuel 11:1-5.

**Ask:**

- Based on that reading, what was the starting point of David's sin? (*Some might say that David should have been doing his job and out fighting the war. Others might say that he repeated Eve's sin of looking at what was forbidden and seeing that it was beautiful.*)
  - How did David's sin progress? (Read together 2 Samuel 11:6-25) (*Looked, saw, he sent an inquiry, then set up a personal meeting, slept with her, and she became pregnant.*)
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**Chapter  
discussion,  
cont.,**

**Ask:**

- According to verse 27, what did God think and know? (He knew/saw all, and He was displeased)

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-18 together.

- How did God respond? (He sent a messenger to David with a riddle, which brought about David's anger for righteous punishment, which then he realized was against himself.)
- What was the outcome of David's choice to sin? (There would be hostility in his household – verse 10 mentions his family living by the sword, and also the baby being born would die.)

**Say:** As we see from David, sin has far-reaching consequences.

**Ask:** Without mentioning a particular sin, how have you seen lasting impacts on your life because of your sin? (discuss)

**Say:** The Lord is merciful. David repented, and God still used him in amazing ways, even fulfilling his promise that the Messiah would come through David's lineage. Even more, the Messiah will one day sit on the throne of David to rule and reign from Jerusalem.

**The Beast  
Within,  
pgs. 92-93  
(1 hour)**

**Say:** The author gives another example with a young woman who falls into sexual sin. Let's look up and read together the verses mentioned at the top of page 93, but a few more verses to get a better context.

**Ask:** What do 1 Corinthians 6:15-20 and 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 say about our bodies? (They are a temple of the Holy Spirit; there cannot be a union between God and an idol. Don't partner with anything that can defile our body or spirit; and in fact, we are to cleanse ourselves as 2 Cor. 7:1 says.)

**Say:** Let's try to understand better why this is all important. We don't have temples here that we attend and bring sacrifices to, and we are probably not Jewish. But let's gain a better understanding of this important illustration of our bodies as the "temple" of the Holy Spirit by reading how God instructed Moses to set up and cleanse the Temple, where God's presence would dwell among the people.



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**Bodies are a Temple (not in book)**

**Do:** Read together Exodus 24:8, Leviticus 17:11, and Hebrews 9.

**Ask:**

- What was so important about the blood (verses 13 and 22)? (the blood could cleanse their bodies from ceremonial impurity; there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood)
- According to Exodus and Leviticus, why was it important for Moses to sprinkle *blood* on all parts of the *tabernacle* and the people? (It confirmed the covenant that the Lord made with the people; it purified them and made the people “right with God”)
- How was the Tabernacle of the Old Testament a copy? (In Hebrews 9:23-26, the temporary temple on earth was pointing to a better and permanent way to be made clean and without sin by the literal blood of Christ Jesus, once and for all.)
- How can this message of “keeping our temple clean” apply to you and me (considering the Corinthians verses we read earlier)? (We are made forever clean by the blood of Christ, but since we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us, we are called to keep our temples clean by obeying God and keeping ourselves pure.)

**The Gift of Sex, pgs. 93-95 (20 min)**

**Say:** The Four Priorities author next discussed God’s gift of sex in marriage.

**Ask:**

- According to the Genesis 2:18-25 passage, what is the outcome of the union between man and woman? (They become one)
- According to Ephesians 5:31-32, how is this same union related to Christ Jesus? (In marriage, they are united into one just as Christ and the church are one.)
- According to Ephesians 2:14-16 and John 17:20-23, how is this same union related to other believers and even God the Father? (Jews and Gentiles into one body, reconciled to God the Father and being built into God’s temple; just as Christ and the Father are one. This is perfect, and holy unity, and for the purpose of the world to believe.)
- How does this all relate to our own sexual purity? (There is a bigger purpose in how we use our bodies. Our bodies are to be used to glorify God; they are not our own. Our marriage should reflect Christ Jesus, and keeping ourselves pure reflects our union with Christ and our faithfulness to Him.)

**Say:** Let’s talk next about how we can have a game plan for *when* temptations come our way.



**Caging the Ape,  
pgs. 95-97  
(15 min)**

**Ask:** What are each of the steps the author gives that can help us avoid having a moral fall?

- Be aware of your vulnerability and identify a personal escape route.
- Asking God to give us the ability to remain sexually pure or to help keep us from sinning.
- Guard the marriage bed / if single, guard ourselves proactively from falling into sin.
- If married, continue to keep the flame alive.
- Guard our thoughts.
- Establish accountability.

**Our thoughts  
(10 min.)**

**Say:** The author gave a wonderful passage in Philippians 4:6-9 to help us guard our thoughts.

**Read** also the following verses, and list what you find about the heart and mind condition:

- Psalm 51:10 (We can ask God for help, and he can renew our loyalty)
- Proverbs 4:23 (When we guard our hearts, it can determine our life's course – for the good or bad, with potential outcomes)
- Jeremiah 17:9 (the human heart is deceitful – synonyms are cheating, lying, deceiving, dishonest)
- Matthew 15:18-20 (the thoughts of our hearts defile us, and it is filled with all types of wickedness)
- Since the battle begins in the heart/mind, how do you need to apply Philippians 4:6-9? (come to God in prayer, petition, and with thanksgiving, presenting my requests for help to God; keeping away from the things that bring temptation)

**Take Action**  
**(30 min.)**

Read through and discuss the questions at the end of the chapter.

Next week, we'll talk more about the heart and mind and look at external influences that can affect our purity.

**Close**  
**(5 min.)**

**Homework:** Read Chapter 10 (and referenced scriptures in the Bible) and come prepared with questions you might have from this chapter, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions.

Close in prayer.