



“How to Build Moral Margin”

Margin Series

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What is Moral Margin?

- It's putting distance between **YOU** & **TEMPTATION**.

*"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and **enticed**. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." James 1:13-15*

*"**Flee** from **sexual immorality**. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price, therefore honor God with your **body**." 1 Corinthians 6:18-20*

- All sins are **NOT** the same.
 - Yes all sins separate us from God, but all sins don't cost us the **SAME THINGS**.

*"But among you there must not be even be a **hint** of sexual immorality." Ephesians 5:3*

8 suggestions for where to draw a Moral Margin line:

- 1) **DRESS** for spiritual success.
- 2) Keep **4 FEET** on the floor when you're dating.
- 3) No **SLEEP OVERS** or **PLAYING HOUSE**.
- 4) No **TONSIL HOCKEY**.
- 5) Avoid **DANGEROUS** places.
- 6) Monitor your **INTERNET ACTIVITY**.
- 7) Avoid time alone with the **WRONG** people.
- 8) Guard your **EYES, MIND, & HEART** with everything you got!
 - *"I made a covenant with my eyes, not to look lustfully at a woman." Job 31:1*

C3 Group Questions

Accountability: Were you at church on Sunday to grow & learn? Did you read/listen to the Bible & pray this week on a regular basis? If so, share what stood out to you in your time with God?

Ice Breaker: How have you seen your life, or the life of someone you know, impacted by sexual sin?

Review: What one thing stood out to you (either helpful, insightful or troubling) from the weekend's message?

Group Discussion:

Read James 1:13-15. The pattern of sin is described in this passage. First, we are enticed & tempted by our own sinful nature & then that temptation leads to sin & all its consequences.

- Why do you think sexual sin is such an easy trap for most people to fall into?
- In what ways does the world's view of morality conflict with God's view?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 & Ephesians 5:1-6. Paul instructs us to not only flee from sexual immorality, but that there should not be any hint of immorality in our lives.

- What are some of the defenses & safeguards you have in place that help put distance between you & sin?
- In what areas of your life are you lacking moral margin? How can you go about creating that margin?

Read Romans 6:12-14. In these verses, Paul tells us that we should not give in to sin with our bodies, but rather offer our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness. God has called us to a higher standard when it comes to morality.

- Describe how you have been able to live up to that standard & how difficult it can be striving to live up to that standard.
- How can people such as your small group, friends, family or spouse help you in living a life with moral margin?

How can this group pray for you this week? Who in this group can you pray for this week?

Next Steps: (*"Do not merely listen to the word.....Do what it says."* James 1:22)

- How can people such as your small group, friends, family or spouse help you in living a life with moral margin?