



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Celebrating Purity

SPEAKER Dr Ng Liang Wei

THEME Celebration Series

DATE 26 & 27 July 2025

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

DSP Edric kicked off this new sermon series by sharing the Church's heart to address uncomfortable but important topics – starting with the issue of pornography. He reminded us of a stark warning by Josh McDowell in 2018 who described pornography as a global pandemic. Recent surveys done among Christians have only highlighted the urgency of this conversation in our own context.

Our guest speaker, Dr Ng Liang Wei, an expert in this field, pointed us to Matthew 6 specifically the Sermon on the Mount, as a framework for addressing this issue. Instead of merely avoiding sin, we were encouraged through scriptures to look at this as a journey towards purity.

PERSPECTIVES FROM SERMON ON THE MOUNT

1. God's Kingdom Invades

Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart...* Dr Ng reminded us that God's Kingdom invades because He first took the initiative to draw near to us. There is an open invitation – we are welcomed to come to Him even as we struggle with the addiction of pornography.

Pornography is problematic because it:

- **Distracts from true blessedness:** We often turn to porn seeking thrills, escape or stress relief, but it ultimately leaves us empty.
- **Subtracts from God's design** – instead of cultivating deep, meaningful connection with our spouse, we settle for a distorted alternative.
- **Attracts negative spiritual influences** – Our thought patterns shift, and we begin to objectify others rather than see them as people deeply loved by God.

Pornography is often a reflection of deeper unmet needs within us. God invites us to bring those needs to Him and to pursue true wholeness and blessedness. The Beatitudes paint a picture of the transformed life that comes when we let go of the world's way and embrace God's kingdom.

2. God's Power Enables

Dr Ng described the three "worlds" we navigate:

- Inner world – where we wrestle with our thoughts, emotions and identity.

- External world – our environment, relationships and influences.
- Imagination world – where the above two worlds intersect, shaping what captures our attention and desires.

Matthew 6:6 shows that the inner world (our secret place) is where the Father desires to meet us. Sadly, the world often views this place as filled with shame and brokenness rather than a space of intimacy and transformation with God.

To allow God's power to work through these three worlds, we must:

1. **Adopt a holistic approach to porn:** Porn is not just a moral failure – it is a symptom of how the Fall has damaged our desires and biological responses. When faced with temptation, ask:
 - a. What am I really pinning for?
 - b. What lies beneath my temptations?
2. **Pursue transformation in community:** We need men and women with godly standards to walk with us. Real change doesn't come through quick fixes but through accountability, use of spiritual tools and truths (word, deliverance etc) and ongoing inward renewal.
3. **Ground spiritual encounters in deep inner work:** Spiritual experiences are powerful but they must be supported by ongoing inner transformation with God.

4. God's Beauty Pervades

God meets us in the secret place. When we build a life of prayer and intimacy with Him, that becomes our reward. His beauty fills and transforms us from within. Matthew 6:4, 6:6, 6:18

5. God Sees You

Whether you are: (a) an unrepentant sinner, (b) a victim of past hurts, (c) a hurting sinner or (d) faithful yet struggling follower - God sees you. He knows your struggles and battles. On the basis of the promise in the Sermon on the Mount, we can take comfort that God wants to be with us.

CONCLUSION

Why celebrate purity? Because God longs to give us hope. He desires to meet us in our secret place. He is with us - offering transformation, healing and victory.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some common ways people cope with stress, loneliness, or pressure today? How might these point to deeper needs beneath the surface?

2. How would you describe your “secret place” with God right now? How can you be more intentional with inviting God into your secret place?

3. Why is community important when dealing with personal struggles? How can we, as a cell group, encourage one another toward wholeness and true blessedness without shame or judgment?