**Our goal at Setting Captives Free—purity course**

The singular goal of all the courses at Setting Captives Free is **intimacy with God.** “*Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me*” (John 15:4). This verse speaks of intimacy, union and oneness with Jesus Christ: He in us, and we in Him. This experience of intimacy and oneness with Jesus changes our hearts and lives and enables us to “bear fruit” (Galatians 5:22-23).

**Intimacy with God is made possible by Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross, and this intimacy produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.** This intimacy and fruitfulness is in stark contrast with a branch disconnected from the vine trying its hardest to bear fruit. A branch is not designed to try hard to bear fruit; rather a branch simply remains connected to the vine, and fruit is produced through its “intimacy” (union) with the vine. **Similarly, we cannot bear the fruit of righteousness, purity and self-control through our own efforts, we must experience real intimacy and union with Jesus Christ if we want lasting freedom.**

**Intimacy with God** comes from having our hearts focusedon the cross of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:1-3). Our goal is not “x number of days free” from certain behaviors such as viewing of pornography, illicit relationships, self gratification (masturbation), etc. because these goals focus us on the sin not the Savior. Instead, we remain at the foot of the cross, through our study of both the Old and New Testaments, and the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of lasting change in our hearts and lives.

One purity student recently said this: “The more and more I look at the cross the more and more I don’t want to do things that will cause disunity with Jesus. This is real power and I am living proof of this.” This person is experiencing exciting **intimacy with God**, wonderful union with Jesus, and he doesn’t want to do anything that will break that intimacy!

**Intimacy with God** is God’s goal for every believer and the goal of every course at Setting Captives Free. If you would like to hear a wonderful and powerful sermon on this intimacy with Jesus, from Setting Captives Free board member Erick Hurt, you may do that by clicking this link: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.gospelpaths.com/tenants/1/audio/Saved-For-Intimacy-Erick.mp3>