

June 4, 2017

Psalm 101

“A Blameless Life”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

In this psalm David expressed his desire to lead a blameless life before God. But who can really lead a blameless life since no one is perfect? The Hebrew word can be translated as “sincere, complete, whole, with integrity.” What this means is that even though we have faults, we too can lead a blameless life before God as long as we are intentional about living a sincere, wholehearted life of integrity before God. Noah had his faults, as did Abraham, but both of these men were called *“blameless”* in the Bible. Pastor Gary’s message today will help us understand what it means to live a blameless life.

A Blameless Life - A Blameless Heart - A Blameless Walk

1. David didn’t write about having a desire live a successful life or a happy life or good life or a long life; his desire was to live a blameless life.
2. [Psalm 101:2a](#) - *“I will be careful to lead a blameless life.”*
3. [Psalm 101:2b](#) - *“I will walk in my house with blameless heart.”*
4. [Psalm 101:6](#) - *“My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me.”*
5. The 1984 NIV uses the word *“blameless,”* but the NKJV and KJV use the word *“perfect,”* which really sets the bar high!
 - a. [Psalm 101:2a](#) - *“I will behave wisely in a perfect way.”* NKJV
 - b. [Psalm 101:2](#) - *“I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way... I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.”* KJV

6. **Romans 3:10a** - *“As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one..’ ”*
7. The Hebrew word for blameless is tamym, which means, sincere, upright, whole, complete, having integrity.
8. Tamiym is not a word that’s used to describe those who have never made a mistake or those who have never sinned.
9. Pastor Gary referred to Noah and Abraham as two men who led a blameless life.
 - a. **Genesis 6:9b** - *“Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.”*
 - b. **Genesis 17:1** - *“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.’ ”*
10. This theme is also found in the New Testament, and the Greek word is anenkletos, which means to be without accusation.
 - a. **Ephesians 1:4a** - *“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”*
 - b. **2 Peter 3:14** - *“So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this [the Second Coming of Christ], make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”*
 - c. **Titus 1:6-7** - *“An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless...”*

Threats To Living A Blameless Life - What We Look At

11. **Psalm 101:2b-3a** - *“I will walk in my house with blameless heart. I will set before my eyes no vile thing.”*
12. Bible scholars aren’t sure whether David wrote this psalm before or after his adulterous affair with Bathsheba, so he either failed to follow his own counsel or he wrote so that others would learn from his sinful actions.
13. Today, we are inundated with sexual images and pornography, which means we must be intentional in this area.
 - a. Pastor Gary said: “Here is a staggering statistic: 90% of boys and 60% percent of girls have been exposed to pornography before the age of 18. And the [age] is getting younger and younger for first-time exposure to pornography. It is currently the age of 11 in our country. And most kids get

exposed to pornography because they stumble upon it in an innocent Internet search. So, I ask you, if David (1,000BC) says, ‘I need to be careful what I look at,’ how much more do we need to heed the advice of this verse? We are constantly exposed to it. It bombards us. It’s everywhere. And it’s not just sexually explicit things that we need to be careful about looking at; it’s things that are violent, and things that are disgraceful, things that are depressing or perverse or sacrilegious or things that mock Christianity, and are ungodly.”

Threats To Living A Blameless Life – How We Respond To Our Culture

14. **Psalm 101:3b-5** - *“The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me. Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil. Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.”*
15. David’s culture was not unlike ours, and he realized that it wasn’t going to be possible to avoid contact with ungodly people.
16. David’s desire was to make sure that he did not become like the ungodly.
17. David made it clear in this psalm that we would “call out” those who slandered others and he purposed in his heart to not allow the influence of the ungodly to change him.
18. Pastor Gary said: “Gentlemen! Be your own man before God! Ladies! Be your own woman before God! [The] danger is that the culture begins to change us rather than we [change] and [influence] our culture.
19. **Romans 12:2a** - *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*
 - a. *“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds...”* - JB Phillips translation
20. The hope for our culture is the church, so Christians must be engaged with the culture.

Threats To Living A Blameless Life – Who We Allow In Our “Inner Circle”

21. **Psalm 101:6-7** - *“My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me. No one who practices*

deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.”

22. Your inner circle would include people who are your family members, friends, and advisors, but they would be few in number.
23. Pastor Gary said: “[I don’t want anyone] to leave here [thinking] that I’m talking about being exclusivist Christians [who] never [associate] with non-Christians... The Bible teaches [us] to engage with the culture, [and] be salt and light... So, dialogue with [people], work with [people], socialize with [people], share Christ with [people], but do not let people who are ungodly have a seat at the table of your inner circle. Everyone that you choose to surround yourself with will impact your life; either positively or negatively. Your inner circle will be people that you influence [and people] who influence you. Be very, very wise about who you allow in that inner circle.”
24. **1 Corinthians 15:33** - *“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’ ”*
25. **Proverbs 11:20** - *“The LORD detests men of perverse heart but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.”*
26. **Proverbs 20:7** - *“The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.”*
27. **Proverbs 28:18** - *“He whose walk is blameless is kept safe but he whose ways are perverse will suddenly fall.”*
28. **1 Thessalonians 3:13** - *“May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes will all his holy ones.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read **Psalm 101** to provide the foundation for this study.
3. Spend time talking about the Hebrew (tamym) and Greek (anenkletos) words and their meaning. (See #7 through #10 above)

4. How would describe the ways the Holy Spirit has helped you live a blameless life, with a blameless heart and a blameless walk?
5. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about pornography and the things we are exposed to that are threats to living a blameless life. (See #13 above)
6. What are some of the ways that the Lord is using you to respond to the culture in a Christ-like way?
7. What are some of the ways you are influenced by the culture?
8. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about no longer being conformed to "*the pattern of this world.*" (See #18 and #19 above)
9. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's comments about who we allow in our inner circle. (See #23 above)
10. Read and discuss the Scriptures (See #24 through #28 above)
11. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).