

The Awesome Rewards of Sexual Purity

The world around us just doesn't get the power that is formed through the bond of sexual intimacy. The Bible says, "*For this reason man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*" *Genesis 2:24* This one-flesh bond has at least three components:

- **A physical bond** – our bodies were created with reproductive organs; a variety of powerful effects happen to us when we are sexually intimate.
- **An emotional bond** – a whole range of emotions are created by sexual intimacy that have an equally powerful effect on people.
- **A spiritual bond** – this is unique to human beings. God created you with a spirit that is uniquely bonded with another human spirit when we are sexually intimate.

The church at Thyatira represents the church of the Dark Ages, from 606 AD to 1500 AD when the winds of the Reformation started to blow. One of the key ways in which the church at Thyatira was being affected was through a total redefinition of sexual morality.

Ten Awesome Rewards for Being Sexually Pure:

1. A look of _____ (pride) from Jesus rather than a look of _____ (anger).
 - a. "*These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire.*" *Revelation 2:18*
 - b. "*How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?*" *Hebrews 10:29* Purity brings the Lord's smile, while impurity angers Him.
2. _____ (Forgiveness) rather than _____ (judgment).
 - a. "*These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.*" *Revelation 2:18*
 - b. "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*" *II Corinthians 5:17*
 - c. "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness.*" *I John 1:9*
3. A _____ (clear) mind rather than a _____ (cloudy) mind.
 - a. "*Nevertheless, I have this against you. You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality.*" *Revelation 2:20*
 - b. A physical, emotional, and spiritual bond with another person outside of the will of God will cloud your mind. By contrast, the person who is sexually pure will have a clear mind.
4. Grace _____ (extended) rather than grace _____ (ended).

- a. *“I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.” Revelation 2:21.* There are limits to God’s grace, as the people of Noah’s day found out, as well as the kings of Israel and Judah (I and II Kings).
5. **Physical _____(well-being) rather than physical _____(consequences).**
 a. *“I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.” Revelation 2:22* In many different ways, sexual sin will take a toll of your health.
6. **Our children are _____(protected) rather than made _____(vulnerable).**
 a. *“I will strike her children dead.” Revelation 2:23* Sexual sin will take a toll of your children.
7. **You will learn to _____(respect) God rather than to take Him _____(lightly).**
 a. *“Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.” Revelation 2:23* *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Proverbs 1:7*
8. **You will _____(protected) from Satan rather than _____(vulnerable) to his attacks.**
 a. *“Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets.” Revelation 2:24* Satan’s secrets are really lies. Two of the biggest lies are “Everyone is doing it” and “Look what you’re missing.”
9. **_____ (Perseverance) rather than _____(acquiescence).**
 a. *“Only hold on to what you have until I come.” Revelation 2:25* Don’t give in and don’t go back! *“The proverbs are true: a dog returns to its vomit and a sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.” II Peter 2:22*
10. **Eternal _____(reward) rather than eternal _____(punishment).**
 a. *“To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations...I will give him the morning star.” Revelation 2:26,28*
 b. *“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters, and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.” Revelation 21:8*

Will you be an overcomer when it comes to sexual temptation?