

Winning the Purity Battle

Colossians 3:4-7 NIV

- I. We must win the battle for purity.
 - a. God will not overlook this area because He loves you.
 - i. We wouldn't have come up with this. 1Thessalonians 4:2-7 NIV
*Our culture has adamantly rejected this and has been extremely successful in advancing his worldview.
 - ii. We must understand this about God or suffer the consequences. Balaam's advice to Balak. Revelation 2:14-16 NIV "Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth." Don't change the word of God to suit your lifestyle – repent instead!
 - iii. Solomon. David. Samson. Ravi Zacharias, Mike Bickle, Robert Morris, Tony Evans
 - b. Confidence is key to our witness. *Bathsheba's words to Solomon went unheeded – "Don't give your strength to women." The righteous are as bold as lions, the wicked flee when no one is pursuing them.
 - c. Win this battle and it's like boot camp – I can win any battle with Jesus!
- II. Understand God's purpose for sexuality and sex.
 - a. Ephesians 5:31-32 NIV "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."^[a] ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church." *"United" is not sex, it's commitment, one flesh is sex – the celebration of intimacy. Marriage is hard and so is salvation – He wanted there to be a secret pleasure shared only between two. Sex is beautiful, holy, and reserved for marriage because of what it is pointing to. He wanted the picture of our relationship with Him to be delight and not merely duty.
 - b. My journey. Proverbs 5:18-20 ESV "Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated^[a] always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?^[a] For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders^[a] all his paths." *God is so good that He even wanted me to be blessed in this intimate area!

- III. Flee temptation.
- a. 1Corinthians 6:18-20 NIV “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.” *Jesus paid a difficult price for you; not you do something difficult for Him.
 - b. Don’t define temptation as sin or you will give up! *Lust in the heart is adultery but it’s no sin to have something drop on you – just don’t let it nest.
 - c. If you are single stay away from the forbidden tree – the serpent will make it desirable and lie to you – “Surely you won’t die!” *Enjoy the other trees in the garden – marriage and family has a commitment that limits friendships and freedom. While marriage reveals Christ in creation, singleness can reveal Him in the new creation! (Rev. 19:7, Matt. 22:30) *Mark Gungor gives God’s unconditional promise to those who marry: 1Corinthians 7:28 “...those who marry will face many troubles in this life.”
- IV. Don’t go alone.
- a. James 5:16 NIV “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” More light, and the help of other people praying for your healing and victory.
 - b. We have several men’s groups formed around getting healing and victory.
- V. What healing from sin looks like.
- a. By His stripes we are healed for we were all like sheep going astray and the Lord laid the iniquity of us all on Him. 1Peter 2:24-25 NIV “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵For “you were like sheep going astray,”^[a] but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” *No longer straying but living close to His Presence.
 - b. “Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.”
 - i. Believing in His forgiveness. You’ll never go and sin no more if you don’t claim His forgiveness. 1John 1:9
 - ii. Establishing new pathways. *Switch on Your Brain – When we choose to say “yes” to His purity, Jesus uses His machete to clear new pathways to His Presence. Romans 7:24-25 “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” *Transformed by a renewing of our minds.