

# Practical Purity Day 2

## Role of Faith in Relation to Purity

Do you, as a professing believer, BELIEVE the LORD your God? Are His ways best and worth obeying? DO you TRULY believe what HE says? Will His commands and promises regarding sex guard you against sin's deceitfulness?

- Ps. 104:24
- Gen. 2:24
- Heb. 13:4
- Song of Sol 2:7
- All other sexual activity outside of marriage is given a specific term- fornication, adultery, homosexuality, incest, rape (OT Law, I Cor. 6:9, Gal 5:19-20)
- Immorality and Impurity among believers is forbidden and is a mark of an unbeliever (Eph. 5:3-5)
- Sexual purity IS God's will for believers (I Thess. 4:1-8)

Why is FAITH in God's Word, specifically what He says about sex, so important?

### 1. B/C SIN IS DECEITFUL!

- a. Not only is your heart deceitful Jer. 17:9
- b. Heb. 3:13 but our heart becomes hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- c. What is deceit? the action or practice of deceiving someone by concealing or misrepresenting the truth
- d. Sin is the master of the old "bait and switch"

### 2. B/C we are pre-wired to LUST with our flesh

- a. Gen. 6:5
- b. Everything in our bodies is impacted by the fall
- c. Our three big enemies
  - i. Jn. 8:44
  - ii. I Jn. 5:19
  - iii. I Jn. 2:15-17
  - iv. This lust combined with the Enemy and his power in the world gives us enemies within and without!

### 3. B/C sin *perverts* God's design, yet offers us the *pleasures* of His perfect design, without any mention of consequences.

- a. Heb. 11:24-5
- b. Don't let anyone tell you that sin isn't fun- it's a PASSING pleasure- but it offers pleasure!
- c. Prov. 9:17 says "Stolen water is sweet and food eaten in secret is delicious." In our flesh we are attracted to what is forbidden.

- d. By faith, you are called to LOOK AHEAD to look ahead to the reward of sexual purity. **By faith you must deny yourself pleasure NOW for the reward of unhindered pleasure later. Delayed gratification is a difficult path, yet it is GOD'S DESIGN!**
- e. Ultimately your belief in God's goodness and the perfection of His Design is a protection against the deceitfulness of sin, the temptations of sin's passing pleasures and the lust in your own heart.

So I ask you again, do you BELIEVE?

Let's look at a narrative example of sin's deceitfulness in the OT. Turn with me to 2 Samuel 13.

Verse	Notes
1	
2	Lust is a ruling desire. <i>Joshua Harris</i> says, "Lust is to want what you don't have and weren't meant to have. It goes beyond attraction, and appreciation of beauty, or even a healthy desire for sex, it makes the desires MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOD." Lust is a ruling desire.
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8-9	
9b	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	

**Al Mohler** states, "A biblical worldview understands that God has demonstrated His glory in both the similarities and the differences that mark men and women, Alike made in the image of God, men and women are literally made FOR each other. The physicality of the male and female bodies cries out for the fulfilment in the other. The sex drive calls men and women out of themselves and toward a covenant relationship that is consummated in a one flesh union. By definition, sex within marriage is NOT merely the accomplishment of sexual fulfillment on the part of two individuals who happen to share the same bed. Rather it is the mutual self-giving that reaches pleasures both physical and spiritual."

This **faith**, solid belief in God’s good plan and promises, will protect you. It will hedge you in when you fall into the trap of *envying the wicked*.

**Psalm 73**

Verse(s)	Notes
1	
2	
3-12	
13-17	
18-20,27	
21-22	
23-26,28	

**Part 2- Practical Nature of Purity**

Having appealed to the gift of faith and our belief in the Lord’s commands and promises to withstand the passing pleasures of sexual sin, let’s look very specifically at the exact commands of God concerning sex.

**Read: I Thes. 4:1-8**

**THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU...YOUR SANTIFICATION.**

Ok, so God wants me to be pure sexually and set apart unto Him, how do I do that?

1. Vs 4-5 Learn/Know how to possess your own vessel- body- in sanctification and honor
  - a. Modesty-
  - b. Control over your members, members are \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 6

**Romans 6:1-14**

Commands based on Gospel Truth

There is a reason The Lord, through Paul, has to remind us of our new Master and the correct use of our body parts/members, because sin (sexual sin) is so deceitful, that once engaged in and pandered to- IT FEEL MASTERING! The beauty of God’s design is infinitely wise and protecting. Obey God, who made sex and all its pleasures, so that when you experience it- according to His plan, you never have to reign it in again. All the pleasure and intimacy you desire sexually is rightfully experienced in marriage to be enjoyed until death do you part! **BUT-** disobey GOD- experience sexual pleasure outside of His plan and design (marriage) and awaken a dragon with an insatiable appetite and untiring strength who FEELS MASTERING. **In sexual sin you experience pleasure and awaken desire you were never meant to have to deny!** Sexual sin a brutal master, you feed it and it only grows in appetite and control.

So, that was learning how to possess your own body/vessel, NOW

1. Vs 6 Do not defraud the brethren- for the Lord is the Avenger of such things- as we warned you!
  - a. Defraud- to deprive of a right by fraudulent means.
  - b. Leading others/guys into sexual sin by appealing to their lust-
    - i. Offering sexual temptation via technology- illicit images (pornography) and content!
    - ii. Appealing to or hinting at what is expressly forbidden by God!
    - iii. Taking what is FOR MARRIAGE and toying with it for attention or personal gain! So much of this goes on at parties today, girls kissing girls or crossing sexual lines for the entertainment of others!
  - c. Taking advantage of someone's interest in you -
  - d. God is the Avenger of those who defraud! **Matt. 18:6-10** Woe to the one by whom offenses come! If your right hand causes you to sin- CUT IT OFF!!! Radical amputation for the purpose of holiness. Maybe a technology fast to establish godly parameters...
2. Vs 7 Why? B/c God has called us to Holiness and has made His will crystal clear!!! He requires our sanctification and freedom from sexual immorality and any violation of this clear call is a rejection of God, not man! There is no better way to prove yourself as not belonging to God than by sexually immoral behavior.

**I Cor. 6:19-20** "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore, GLORIFY GOD in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

### Part 3- The Perseverance Purity Requires

Phil 1:6

Phil. 2:12-13

1. **Persevere in purity and consider your motivations. As Christians we need to think regularly about our greater and lesser motivations.**
  - a. Our greatest motivation is to honor and glorify God
  - b. Lesser motivations also play a role. Remember Moses who took the path of delayed gratification and denied himself sin and its passing pleasures but instead looked ahead to his reward? This is a prime example of lesser motivations. You see the greatest motivation isn't the REWARD itself but honoring the Lord. YET, the Lord uses these lesser motivations to fuel and motivate our obedience.
  - c. If you are a young girl who desires to be married, have you considered that your future husband will likely ask you about your past sexual experiences. How far did you go and with whom?
  - d. A wise pastor will certainly ask this in pre-marital counseling. Are you prepared to verbally state your specific sexual experiences?
  - e. Prov 9:17-18 tells us that "Stolen water is sweet and food eaten in secret is delicious but no one tells you that the ways of the dead are there." In other words, you enjoy these seemingly secret pleasures, but they are not secret to the LORD and cannot remain a secret if you desire to start a godly marriage.

- f. If you are a young girl viewing and indulging in pornography, have you considered you are training your mind in sexual practice and “how to’s” that are greatly damaging to the marriage bed? If you learn sexual experience via porn, how can you be sure you will enjoy God’s design for the marriage bed? You train yourself to be aroused and pleased by certain sexual practices and activities and what you do not realize is that those sexual standards follow you into marriage! (This goes both ways- of guys are viewing porn- what activity and experience they expect is deeply detrimental and damaging to the marriage bed!)
  - g. If you are a young woman texting sexually explicit images and messages to young men/women, are you prepared for MANY beyond the recipient to read/view those messages/images? All it takes is a forward tap or a screen shot to perpetuate a mistake. What is a future employer sees these images?
  - h. If you are sexting in order to gain or retain the attention of a guy, have you considered the never-ending options of more sexually explicit images that await him? Why should he be satisfied with your impure pics? What’s to stop him from wanting more and getting it elsewhere?
  - i. How will you feel when you see the guy whom you sent naked pics a few years from now? What is he marries one of your friends?
  - j. If you are a young woman engaging in lesbian activity for excitement, attention or experimental reasons, have you considered you may be awakening sexual desires you never knew you had and thus altering the course of your life sexually? Is a moment of excitement or experiment worth a lifetime of temptation and damming sin?
  - k. If you desire to have children, have you considered one day they will ask you about your past sexual experiences and how you remained pure? If you give yourself over to sexual sin how can you answer them?
  - l. Have you considered that your future sexual relationship with your spouse will be directly impacted by your sexual activity now? All three of my dearest friends would attest to this. When they entered marriage they and their spouses were walking closely with Christ and in obedience to Him sexually, however all the past issues reared their heads. Doubt and fear from the spouse who had remained pure until marriage when he/she mentally considered she’s been with other guys, what if I don’t measure up? Who is he/she thinking about? .....
  - m. If you constantly feed your mind sexually explicit entertainment via TV, movies and texting have you considered you are feeding a dragon that DOES NOT DISAPPEAR upon marriage? In other words- purity is ALWAYS a battle- even in marriage!
  - n. **Rom. 6:21** “What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed?” Does the past pleasure outweigh the present shame, now being Christ?
2. **Persevere in Purity by Choosing your friends WISELY!**
- a. **Psalm 119:63** “ I am a companion of those who fear You”
  - b. **Psalm 16:3** “As for the saints in the land they are the excellent ones in whom is all my delight.”

- c. **Prov. 12:26** “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.” Remember Amnon and his scheming friend Jonadab? Do you have scheming friends who plot disobedience and rebellion? Are you the scheming friend that plots disobedience and rebellion? **Prov. 13:15**, the way of the transgressor is hard and **13:21** “Adversity pursues sinners!” \*Listen to what your parents say about your friends! They aren’t idiots!
  - d. **Godly friends will** bless you for years to come!! “Show me your friends and I’ll show you your life in ten years!”
  - e. **Listen to your parents in regard to your friends!!** **Prov. 13:1** “A wise son listens to his father’s instruction.”
3. **Persevere in purity and make a covenant with your eyes.**
- a. **Job 31:1** “I have made a covenant with my eyes, why then should I look upon a young woman (virgin)?”
  - b. Choose not to be entertained by the sins Christ dies to save us from! I will walk in my house in the integrity of my heart...**Ps. 101:2**
  - c. Read Plugged In online.
4. **Learn to recognize and articulate your specific struggles and temptations from desire to thought to action.**
- a. Usually what is appealing to your flesh brings actual physical arousal. Remember that we set up idols in our hearts b/c of what they do for us! We create them to serve us- this is what makes it idolatry of the heart! So, as wise women, know your heart. Know what most appeals to your flesh...kissing scenes in movies, explicit chapters in romance novels, nudity in movies etc.... Once you recognize it you must acknowledge what this appeal does for you in your mind/heart and how those desires and thoughts play themselves out in actions.
  - b. Learn to articulate, dissect and rebuild your ungodly thoughts
  - c. Did you know God has wired our brain to operate according to habit, but He has also made us capable of developing NEW habits and patterns? He has wired our brains for the purpose of biblical change and sanctification! This is **Col. 3:1-10** and **Eph. 4:17-32** together- putting of the old man and putting on the new and it begins with your THOUGHTS- you see the old man and the fleshly inclinations are present in all. **Col. 3:1-5** explains, “Therefore put to death your members which are on earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire and covetousness which is idolatry... in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.” **Eph. 4:17ff** elaborates “You should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened...who being past feeling have given themselves over to lewdness to work all uncleanness with greediness.”
  - d. Look to an older woman in the faith for help and support. **James 5:16** tells us to confess our sine to one another and ray for each other- this includes sexual sin.
  - e. If an older woman, your mom or someone else, reaches out to you concerning sexual sin- **DON’T SHUT THEM OUT!** **Prov. 18:1** says, “He who isolated himself seeks his own.”

5. **Persevere in Purity by actively serving as single women should and uniquely can! Do you want to know what God wants you to do as a single girl/woman until marriage? I Cor 7:34** “The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord that she may be pure in body and spirit.” If you are not bound in the covenant of marriage, which becomes your greatest human responsibility relationally, then you have one focus- the things of the Lord!
  
6. **Persevere in purity and remember, your personal purity is a BOLD witness in today’s dark sexual climate.**
  - a. Remember **I Thes. 4:7-8**? Anyone who rejects Paul’s teaching on sexual immorality rejects God, not man. Thus, the converse is true! Whoever **ACCEPTS** and **OBEYS** I Thes. 4:1-8 proves she **FOLLOWS CHRIST!!!**
  - b. **Col. 3, Eph. 4** the New man is contrasted with the old man! The differences are clear!
  - c. **Eph. 5:1-13** “Be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma. <sup>3</sup>But let all fornication and uncleanness of covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as fitting for saints; neither filthiness nor foolish talking, not coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. <sup>6</sup>For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. <sup>8</sup>For you were one in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the LORD. <sup>11</sup>And have **NO FELLOWSHIP** with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. By all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light. For whatever makes manifest is light.”
    - i. Because I have wanted to present a sober view of sexual sin and its weight and consequences, I have thus far not mentioned God’s precious forgiveness. God extends forgiveness through repentance, and in fact, the body of Christ is **FULL** of people who have, by His grace, crossed over from death to life. **I Cor 6:9-11** declares that no fornicator, idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And **SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU**, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” So, **PLEASE** hear and know the hope and promise of forgiveness for **ALL SIN, INCLUDING SEXUAL SIN**, found in the Lord Jesus!
      1. **Psalm 32 and Psalm 51**, the great contrition and repentance Psalm’s of David were written in response to sexual sin! Take courage from these Psalms. Read them. Pray them.

2. **Believe I Jn. 1:9** If we confess He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and purify us of all unrighteousness! If you are in Christ, God is just and has dealt with your sin, even you sexual sin, He has punished Christ for that sin, and b/c He has faithfully done that, He can and will forgive and cleanse you!