

Purity

Oklahoma City

September 2008 – Fall Discipleship Conference

I. Introductions, Workshop Goal

Goal ... not to tell you what you don't know – but to remind you of what you already know – and develop practical applications for our lives today

“What men and women obsess about, fantasize over, and concentrate on will shape what they desire.” Gary Thomas, author of Sacred Marriage

Agenda ...

- What is the biblical basis for purity?
- Where is our culture today?
- Why is purity a big deal to God?
- What can I do?

Illustration: rocks in the river while kayaking

II. Biblical basis for Purity

Dictionary definition:

¹ The condition or quality of being pure; freedom from anything that debases, contaminates, pollutes, etc.: *the purity of drinking water.* ² Freedom from any admixture or modifying addition. ³ Freedom from guilt or evil; innocence. ⁴ Physical chastity; virginity. ⁵ Freedom from foreign or inappropriate elements. ⁶ Cleanness or spotlessness, as of garments.

Purity encompasses what we think about, what we say, what we look at, and what we do

A. Thoughts

- Ps. 19:14 NASB - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

B. Speech

- Eph. 4:29 AMP – Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.
- James 3:8-10 - ⁸But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.
- Col. 4:6 NASB - Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

C. Eyes

- Matt. 6:22 NASB – The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.
- Matt 5:28 NASB – but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- Job 31:1 NASB – I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman.

D. Actions

- Col. 3:17 NASB - Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
- Col. 3:5 NASB - Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.
- 2 Peter 3:14 NLT – ... make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

III. Where is our culture today?

- Words do not have the same meanings they once did
- Internet porn
- Recent #1 song – “I kissed a girl and liked it ... I hope my boyfriend doesn’t mind it”
-- lyrics from “I Kissed a Girl” by Kate Perry
- “Boyfriend” means the guy I’m sleeping with – but the guy I’m sleeping with may not be my boyfriend
- Friends “with benefits”
- Lack knowledge of God’s standards
- Rainbow parties – 5th – 7th graders

Percentage of adults who view certain behavior as morally acceptable (2003)

- *Enjoying sexual thoughts or fantasies about someone 59%*
- *Living with someone of the opposite sex without being married, sometimes called co-habitation 60%*
- *Having a sexual relationship with someone of the opposite sex to whom you are not married 42%*
- *Looking at pictures of nudity or explicit sexual behavior 38%*
- *Having a sexual relationship with someone of the same sex 30%*

-- Barna Group

Q ... Do we set our standards to be one level better than our culture or do we set our standard by God’s standard?

Illustration – white duck on green grass, white duck on white snow

IV. Why is purity a big deal to God?

A. He wants us to be like Him -- we are created in His image

1 Peter 1:15-16 NASB - ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

Genesis 1:27 NASB "God created an in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

B. We are His bride

Rev. 19:7 NASB – Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.

C. He wants us to be set apart

Eph. 5:3 NLT - Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people.

1 Peter 2:11 NASB - Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

D. Your life is not our own

2 Cor. 5:15 NASB - And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

E. Your body is God's temple

1 Cor. 6:18-20 NASB - ¹⁸Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

F. It's God's will

1 Thess. 4:3-5 NASB - For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality

G. To be prepared for God's work

2 Tim. 2:21-22 NASB - ²¹Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. ²²Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

H. He wants what is best for us – He's not trying kill our fun

John 10:10 NASB – The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

He invented sex – it creates a permanent bond

Illustration: fire in a fireplace VS fire in the living room

Physical risk – STDs, pregnancy

Satisfies for the moment – leaves you wanting more

Love is putting the other person first – sex puts me first

V. What can I do?

A. Anticipate temptation – Don't make "provision" for your lusts

- Romans 13:14 NASB - But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.
- James 1:14-15 NASB - ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
- Movies in hotel room
- Request specific accountability for a risky situation – traveling
- Identify the steps that lead you in the direction of a particular sin

B. Act Dead

- Colossians 3:5 NASB - Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

C. Run away – don't try to resist

- 1 Corinthians 6:18 NASB - Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.
- James 4:7 NASB – Submit therefore to God Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- 1 Corinthians 6:18 AMP - Shun immorality and all sexual looseness [flee from impurity in thought, word, or deed]. Any other sin which a man commits is one outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.
- Example: Joseph and Potiphar's wife (Gen. 39:7-20)

D. Set boundaries

- Psalms 101:3 NLT – I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar.
- Not “how near to the edge can I get without going over”

E. Control your thoughts

- Illustration: Pink elephants
- Phil. 4:8 NASB - Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.
- 2 Cor. 10:5 NASB – ... taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
- Fantasizing – discontent
- Romance novels
- Only way to kill a bad habit is to starve it to death

F. Change your thought patterns

- Romans 12:2 NASB - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Ephesians 5:26 - to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.
- Luke 6:45 NASB - The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.
- Write out a list of all the possible consequences that would result from immorality
- Do a study on every passage in the Bible related to purity

G. No secrets

- Proverbs 28:13 NLT – People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.
- Lust thrives in secrecy
- No area in your life that no one knows about – someone knows all your dirt

H. Accountability

- With someone who is winning the battle – and will not make excuses for you so that they can excuse their own behavior
- James 5:16 NASB - Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

- Ecc1 4:9-10 NASB - ⁹Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. ¹⁰For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

I. Perseverance

- Proverbs 24:16 NASB - For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again
- Hebrews 12:1 NASB – Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

J. Go to Battle – Get Serious

- 1 Peter 2:11 NASB – Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.
- Romans 8:13 NASB – for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

K. Forgiveness – Repent – Return – Rely

- Acts 3:19 Repent, therefore, and return that your sins may be wiped away in order that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.
- Isaiah 1:18 NASB – "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.
- Psalms 103:12 NASB - As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- Romans 8:1 NASB - Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- Joel 2:25 KJV - And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten ...
- Example: Rahab – from prostitute to the line of David and Jesus
- Example: David (after Bathsheba) –
- Psalms 51:1, 7 NASB – According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

L. Rely on God – not yourself

- Galatians 3:3 NLT - How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?
- John 15:5 Apart from Me you can do nothing

Resources

- Every Woman's Battle by Shannon Ethridge
- Guarding Your Heart by Dr. Gary and Barb Rothberg
- Intimate Issues Conference – <http://www.intimateissues.com/>
- Covenant Eyes – <http://www.covenanteyes.com>
- Celebrate Recovery Program

Additional Verses

- Romans 13:14 AMP
But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and make no provision for [indulging] the flesh [put a stop to thinking about the evil cravings of your physical nature] to [gratify its] desires (lusts).
- Romans 13:14 NLT
Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.
- Romans 12:1-2 NASB Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Romans 12:1-2 AMP ¹I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].
- Romans 12:1-2 NLT ¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
- James 1:14-15 NLT - ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.