

Winning the Purity Battle in Today's Culture

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Introduction:

I Thessalonians 4:3-7 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,...For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

Regarding the word for impurity: "All that is contrary to chastity in heart, speech, and behavior, is contrary to the command of God in the Decalogue, and contrary to that holiness which the gospel requires." Matthew Henry

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

I. Motivation

Psalms 16:11/Psalms 51:12 Joy Desiring God, Piper

Galatians 5:13/John 8:34-36 Freedom Victory Over Darkness, Anderson

II. Measure

Mark 10:19 Moicheia adultery

Ephesians 5:3 Porneia fornication
Akatharsia impurity-comprehensive

1 Peter 1:14 Epithumia lust-strong desire

1 Peter 4:2-3 Aselgia sensuality (KJV-lasciviousness) - absence of restraint,
indecenty, (Gothard) tendency to excite lustful desires

III. Method

Romans 12:1-2 ...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the
renewing of your mind...

Be not conformed 1 Corinthians 6:18 "flee immorality..."

Romans 6:12-13 "therefore, do not let sin reign" But be transformed

Galatians 5:16 "...walk(present imperative meaning keep on walking) by the Spirit
and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.
vs. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against Spirit, and the Spirit against
the flesh,..."

Characteristics of a Christ-centered Dating Strategy

1. There is a spiritually mature perspective toward whom to date. This means one does not date somebody that one would not be able to marry. (II Timothy 2:22)
 - a. the person is a Christian
 - b. the person is committed to the Lordship of Christ in his or her life
2. Self control is exercised, and the woman is treated like a sister in all purity (I Timothy 5:2)
3. Making the decision to begin to date someone should be made in the context of courtship. Dating should be reserved for the situation in which there is a mutual understanding that there is a mutual interest in getting to know the person in a more personal way with the possibility that the relationship could progress, with the Lord's leading, to marriage.
4. The emphasis is on communication and getting to know one another at a deeper level.
5. "Casual dating" is not a wise pursuit, because it invariably leads to unrealistic expectations on both sides that can not be fulfilled which results in hurt feelings and damaged relationships. It also unnecessarily puts the couple in situations in which there is pressure for physical involvement. Physical intimacy outside of marriage results in guilt and sets the stage for future problems in marriage.

Characteristics of a godly woman:

1 Peter 3:2-3 quiet spirit, inner beauty, chaste, respectful
Proverbs 31:10-11 strength of character, more precious than jewels, trustworthy, hard worker, resourceful, wise, generous, merciful, courageous, gentle in her teaching, her children and husband praise her, dignified

Characteristics of the kind of a woman to avoid:

Proverbs 5:6 wrong philosophy of life
Proverbs 5:3 flatters with her speech
Proverbs 6:25 flirtatious in countenance and appearance
Proverbs 7:10-11 forward, rude, indiscreet and immodest in her dress, and disrespectful
Proverbs 7:13 emphasizes physical contact, not careful about avoiding physical contact
Proverbs 7:12 immoral

Warnings about this type of woman:

Proverbs 5:4 in the end she is bitter as wormwood
Proverbs 5:5 her feet go down to death
Proverbs 5:8 do not go near the door of her house
Proverbs 5:10-11 lest . . . you groan at your latter end when your flesh is consumed Proverbs 6:26 on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread, and an adultress hunts for the precious life

IV. Putting these truths into practice

Ephesians 4:22-24

A. Battling to not conform *lay aside the old self*

In our thought life

Psalm 101:3-4 "I will not allow a base thought to attract my attention; I despise crooked practices; they shall not gain hold of me; I will not entertain evil."

II Corinthians 10:4-5 "...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true...honest...just...pure...lovely...of good report...think on these things In what we view

Matthew 5:28 "every one who looks on a woman to lust for her..."

Psalms 119:37 "Turn away my eyes from looking at futilities, and revive me in Thy ways."

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and vain deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world"

With whom we spend time

Proverbs 13:20 "Be with wise men and become wise; be with evil men and become evil."

Proverbs 16:29 "Wickedness loves company and leads others into sin."

II Timothy 2:22 "Now flee youthful lusts, and pursue after righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

B. Battling to be transformed *put on the new self, renewing of our mind* Change is a supernatural process.

II Corinthians 3:18 "...being transfigured into his very own image..." **James 1:2-4** (Phillips) "...have become men of mature character..."

I Corinthians 15:57 "How we thank God for all of this. It is He who makes us victorious through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Realize who I am in Christ

II Corinthians 5:17 I am "a new creation, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new"(KJV)

II Peter 1:4 I am a partaker "of the divine nature"

Titus 2:11-12 "For the saving grace of God has appeared for all people, training us to renounce godlessness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present world"(New Berkeley Version)

Walk by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-17 "walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh"

Walk by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, for these are in opposition to one another...

Ephesians 5:8-11 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light... And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness...

I John 1:7-9 if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins...

Ephesians 4:22-24 that...you lay aside the old self which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth

We have the capacity as Christians, to choose to say no to temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13), but that choice is not automatic. We decide with each temptation whether we will do what Christ wants or what our flesh wants. If I follow Christ, I am walking in the Spirit (under the Spirit's control), walking in the light, walking in fellowship, and "putting on the new self". If I choose to follow the flesh, then I am walking in the flesh (under the control of the flesh). I have not lost my salvation, but I have stepped out of fellowship, and I need to apply 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" and Proverbs 28:13 "He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion".

Four important aspects of walking by the Spirit:

1. Learn to live in submission to and dependence on the Lord

James 4:6-7 "God...gives grace to the humble, submit therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"

II Corinthians 3:5 "not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God"(KJV)

II Peter 3:18 "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

2. Learn to say "no" to temptation.

I Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able; but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it."

Ephesians 6:11-18 "Put on the full armor of God that you may be able to stand firm against

the schemes of the devil..."

3. Learn to quickly confess when I stumble and be restored to fellowship with Christ. *WRONG*

RESPONSE:

- a. "It's no big deal, nobody knows about it."
- b. "I'm a complete failure. It's no use trying"

Psalms 130:3-4 "If Thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared."

Hymn; Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, "Streams of mercy never ceasing,"; Robert Robinson 18th century English minister

4. Resist beginnings.

Romans 13:14 "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts"

Proverbs 4:14-15 "**Do** not enter the path of the wicked, and do not proceed in the way of evil men, avoid it, do not pass by it, turn away from it, and pass on"

V. Application:

Remember who I am in Christ, and appropriate His grace and power moment-by-moment each day.

Realign myself with God's purpose in my life moment by moment to live in joy and freedom, treasuring Him above anything else.

Resolve to daily put on the full armor of God in order to be able to stand firm in the battle, live in victory, and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.