

Tonight, we are going to be talking about purity. And before you get all weird and squirmy, I'm not just talking about sexual issues although we will talk about that. We are going to be talking about purity of life.

Purity of life is way more than just not having sex before you're married. Purity means that in all your ways you are acknowledging God. It means that you are allowing God's Word to define what you do and don't do. It means that you aren't in control, but you trust God to make the decision about what is best for you. Purity of life means that you are allowing God to form you, shape you, guide you, and fix you.

Purity literally means that it is unstained and clean. Like fresh snow, children and pure gold. It's not mixed or complicated. It's one pure thing and nothing but that one thing. Like a bag of flour or sugar. It's not tainted or stained in any way. It's perfect.

If we represented our lives with a bag of flour or sugar, would it be pure or would it be mixed with all kinds of other things? Would it be stained with good and bad? Would it be perfect? No. Some of us might have a bag of flour that is mostly white, with some flakes of dirt or a little bit of bad in it. But a bag of flour with only some dirt in it is not good. Some of us would have bags that are half and half dirt and flour. Some of us would have mostly dirt and a little flour. But the point is this, none of us are pure. None. Purity of life is not something that we can do on our own.

In the end, none of us are pure. We are all stained. We are all broken. We all have things in our past and present that would be catastrophic and utterly shameful to admit that we have done. We are not pure. So before we go and talk about how to live in purity, we need to talk about how we can get rid of the junk in our lives. The only way we can be pure is through Jesus. HOW?

If you are not a Christian, you can be forgiven and washed clean. All it takes is admitting that you are a sinner, addicted to your own ways not to Gods. Confess that sin and confess that the only way you can be saved from that sin is through Jesus. Believe that he died for you to take away your sin and to give you life. Put all your faith and hope and life in him and you will be saved and washed clean. Literally given a new heart and life. Old is gone, new is here. That's how you can be pure and that is the only way.

However, once we are saved and have a relationship with him, we want nothing less than to be pure. We get a changed heart and then we want to obey God and be pure, because that is what is best for us! Our old life before we knew Christ wasn't what was best for us. Wisdom is what is best for us! So now that we know that the only way we can live a wise life is if we have a changed heart from God through Jesus, let's read Solomon's instructions to his sons about having purity of life.

Proverbs 5:1-23

Proverbs 6:20-35

Proverbs 7:1-27

- Temptation, especially sexual temptation, is incredibly common and it is attractive. That is what it means for something to be tempting. Satan uses something that is good and draw us to it, but wants us to use it in a way that is not how God intended it.
- Temptation has a way of luring us into something that will destroy us. It convinces us that it is good and pleasing when in fact it is not good for us at all.
- Solomon is pleading with his sons to stay as far away from sexual temptation as is possible. Don't flirt with it. Don't dabble with it. Don't play around with it. It's desire is to destroy you.
- Solomon says that this seductive woman is easy access and we shouldn't even go near her door. She knows how to lure us in and how to captivate our attention. If we are not careful at guarding ourselves from her, it will cost us our life.
- This imagery of the seductive woman/prostitute is a picture of the temptation that we face. One of the primary places that sexual temptation takes place is on your phones/computers. Yes sexual temptation is in other places, but one of the main ones is on phones/computers. It is convenient, easy access, and readily available.
- THE STATS - SEXUAL TEMPTATION/PORNOGRAPHY IS EVERYWHERE
 - There are 47 million pornography websites and about 370 million pages of pornography on the internet and that number grows daily.
 - The revenue from the pornography business is more than the MLB, NBA, and NFL combined as well as the revenues of ABC, CBS, NBC. More money is spent on this sexual temptation/sin than all the major sports and network television combined.
 - Pornography websites receive more daily traffic than Netflix, Hulu and Twitter combined.
- THE STATS - MORE PEOPLE THAN NOT ARE INDULGING IN SEXUAL TEMPTATION
 - The numbers from nationwide polling say that 93% of boys and 62% of girls will be exposed to internet pornography before the age of 18.
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ (or 75%) of boys and about $\frac{1}{4}$ (or 25%) of girls your age actively look at porn on the internet.
 - 50% of teenagers engage in viewing pornography on atleast a monthly basis.
- THE STATS - MORE AND MORE PEOPLE DON'T EVEN SEE THE PROBLEM
 - Only 1 out 10 teens in a recent nationwide survey said that their friends think that viewing pornography is bad.
 - Of those polled, 67% think that viewing pornography is acceptable behavior. That is $\frac{2}{3}$ of your school that really does not see a problem with this form of sexual temptation and sexual sin.
 - In that same survey, $\frac{2}{3}$ teenagers have received a sexually explicit image on text/social media and 40% have sent one.
- Those numbers are staggering and heartbreaking to me. What that says to me is that we have a big problem as Christians when it comes to sexual purity. It's heartbreaking how many are caught in addictive patterns of sin and it's heartbreaking because when we are actively engaged in sin then we are not drawing near to God and we are not making a difference for the kingdom of God. It's heartbreaking because so many are on the sidelines of the faith because they are consumed with sin.
- The stats say that over half of you in here and maybe more have already failed when it comes to sexual temptation. And I'm not here to put you in your place or to condemn you.

- If you've failed, then you are not alone. I don't say that to help justify your sin, but the reality is the enemy wants to isolate you and make you think that you are the only one who struggles and you should be ashamed and never talk about it. That's not true if you're a Christian. You should feel guilt for wrong things done, but Jesus by his death has paid for all that sin. He has washed you clean. You can be free from it when you confess and repent and move on from it. That is a huge step to take, but it is necessary if you'll find freedom from it.
- All of us have failed in some area, whether it is sexual temptation or something else. The only thing you can change is what you do moving forward. You can't go back and clean up everything. You can't and God doesn't need you to do that. When you are saved, he wipes away all your sins past, present and future. He cleans you up, not you.
- I am not here to condemn, but I am here to warn you like Solomon. Moving forward, listen to the words of Solomon. DON'T GO NEAR. Stay as far away from sexual temptation as you possibly can. Do whatever it takes to save your life. Do whatever it takes. Don't be lazy or nonchalant or skeptical when it comes to sexual purity. Guard it with your life, because it can destroy you as fast and as damaging as any other sins.
- If you need something (accountability, wisdom, freedom) then I am here for you guys and Maddy is here for you girls. We can help you, we can listen, we can encourage, we can challenge you where needed, we can be there for you if you have no one else to talk to about these things.
- If you feel guilt, here is how you deal with it. Confess your sins to someone trusted. If you are saved, then know that God loves you despite your performance. Despite how well you have done that week, God loves you and died for you. Remind yourself of that often. If you are not a Christian, you can be forgiven and washed clean. All it takes is admitting that you are a sinner, addicted to your own ways not to Gods. Confess that sin and confess that the only way you can be saved from that sin is through Jesus. Believe that he died for you to take away your sin and to give you life. Put all your faith and hope and life in him and you will be saved.
- If you want to do that tonight, I would love nothing more than to talk to you.
- I don't love heavy topics in here. If I had it my way, then we would skip all of this and chuck some dodgeballs at each others faces. But this is a huge issue and if you don't learn to seek purity, then the results can be disastrous for your life. I care about you enough to have this conversation and to share what God's Word has to say about this. Let me pray for you us and we will get out of here.