
SEXUAL PURITY

Ephesians 5:3-14

TODAY'S VERSES:

... among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality. . . Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes. . .

- ▶ SEXUAL IMMORALITY: Sex without the **commitment of marriage**.

THE BIGGER PICTURE:

- ▶ Sexual purity is a **big deal!**
Ephesians 5:3-14/ I Thessalonians 4:3-8/ Genesis 1:27-28 & I Corinthians 7:3-5

- ▶ It's not the only **big deal!**
I Corinthians 6:9-11

STAYING PURE IN AN IMPURE WORLD: *Two Keys to Purity*

❶ AVOIDANCE

- ▶ Flee **BEFORE you're tempted!**
Ephesians 5:3/ Proverbs 7:7-23 and Proverbs 4:23 & 5:8
- Spirituality is no match for **sexual temptation**.
Matthew 5:27-30/ 2 Samuel 11:1-4 & 1 Kings 11:1-14/ I Corinthians 6:18-20 & James 4:7
- Only a fool sees danger and **keeps on going**.
Proverbs 22:3

❷ ACCOUNTABILITY

- ▶ Make your life and actions as **TRANSPARENT as possible**.
Ephesians 5:8-14
- Accountability is more than a **small group meeting!**
- Anonymity breeds **sin** –
Transparency breeds **righteousness**.

Sexual Purity

Food for Thought for the week of June 5, 2005
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This week we saw why sexual purity is such a big deal. What reason does Paul give in I Corinthians 10:12 for the necessity to have a plan to remain pure?

1 Corinthians 10:12

12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! [NIV]

Have you ever seen someone (or even yourself) fall into the trap of thinking spiritual maturity or strong commitment would make them immune to sexual sin and temptation?

2. Joseph and Samson are two people in the Old Testament who used contrasting strategies to deal with sexual temptation - one did well, the other failed. Read the brief excerpts below from each of their lives and write down the steps each one took or didn't take to avoid temptation.

Joseph - Genesis 39:8-10

Genesis 39:8-10

8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

Samson - Judges 14:17; 16:1,16-17

Judges 14:17

17 She cried the whole seven days of the feast. So on the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people.

Judges 16:1

One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her.

Judges 16:16-17

16 With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.
17 So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."

3. As we deal with sexual temptation, sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that simply being tempted is a sin. What do the following passages say about this kind of thinking?

Mark 1:9-12

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness,

James 1:13-15

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Hebrews 4:15

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

4. Which of the following best describes your own sexual purity at this time?

- I'm walking too close to the edge – it's time to let someone know and get a better strategy in place.
- I need to re-establish and think through my sexual temptation avoidance plan.
- I'm doing well. God, are there any other steps I need to take I might not be taking?
- Other

Sexual Purity Resources – Our bookstore offers a number of books on this topic. If you need someone to help you strategize, feel free to contact one of our pastors or our counseling center here at North Coast – 760.724.6700. The following websites are also good resources to deal with pornography on the internet and provide filters for your computer. www.xxxchurch.com/
www.covenanteyes.com/