

How to be Sexually Pure in a Sex-Saturated Society

Ephesians 5:1-10

Questions:

- ♦ What kind of relationships are you involved in?
- ♦ What type of friend or teammate are you?
- ♦ What's your source of knowledge?
- ♦ Is marriage designed to protect and deepen the experience of love or is marriage designed to restrict and limit expressions of love?
- ♦ Is it even possible to create a union between two people where sex is celebrated, approved, and enjoyed?
- ♦ What does God have to say about marriage (sex)?
- ♦ Can He, and will He, empower to live His prescription for marriage?

**These questions expose our deepest longings,
our most painful wounds.**

**The reason God COMMANDS to preserve sex for
one man / one woman is because sexual impurity
destroys relationships.**

Five facts about sex:

- ♦ Those who abstain from sexual intercourse before marriage report the highest levels of sexual satisfaction in marriage
- ♦ Those who cohabit before marriage have a 50% higher divorce rate than those who do not (UCLA).
- ♦ Those who abstain from sexual intercourse before marriage have the highest rates of fidelity in marriage (U of SC).
- ♦ The introduction of sex in a dating relationship almost always ushers in the break up of that relationship (L. Parrot).
- ♦ STD's (including AIDS) can remain dormant for more than a decade, but be passed on during that time.

Two Facts about Sex in God's Prescription

LOVING RELATIONSHIPS DEMAND SEXUAL PURITY

Marching Order #1: WALK IN LOVE *Ephesians 2:1-6*

A CHILLING LIST (vs. 5-6)

- ♦ The way we use/think about sex ultimately boils down to seeing it either as one of God's GIFTS or as a means to satisfy selfish ends.
- ♦ If God has given us such a gift as sexuality, then our truest form of GRATEFULNESS will be shown by how we handle the gift.

THE DANGER OF EMPTY WORDS

- ♦ Don't be fooled by those who try to EXCUSE these sins.
- ♦ We cannot SERVE more than one god.
- ♦ The problem is not that people come as they are; the problem is that when they LEAVE, they leave like they came!

Marching Order #2: WALK IN THE LIGHT *Ephesians 2:7-10*

- ♦ As children of the light, carry out relationships in such a way that you GIVE out good instead of trying to manipulate and get.
- ♦ These two phrases picture God's DESIRE for you (walking in love, walking in light). It takes a carefully crafted game-plan.

SEXUAL PURITY DEMANDS A GAME PLAN

Five positives that come from sexual purity

- ♦ If you stay sexually pure, you can expect to be more sexually FULFILLED in your marriage.
- ♦ If you stay sexually pure, then you can expect the possibility of divorce to go DOWN by 50%.
- ♦ If you stay sexually pure, then you can expect your relationships to LAST. You can start today, it's never too late!
- ♦ If you stay sexually pure, then you can expect to avoid the sexually transmitted DISEASES that are destroying so many lives.
- ♦ If you stay sexually pure and accept someone as a potential mate who lives by the same values, then you can expect that when you marry, each of you will remain FAITHFUL to the other.

God's Game Plan for Sexual Purity

FOUR SPECIFIC STEPS TO DEVELOP YOUR GAME OR BATTLE PLAN FOR LIVING LIFE GOD'S WAY IN THE ARENA OF YOUR SEXUALITY

#1: Procure CONVICTIONS *Ephesians 2:2-4*

- Purity requires a personal commitment to the truth.

#2: Ponder the CONSEQUENCES *Ephesians 2:5-6*

- 1 Corinthians 10:12; Proverbs 9:10
- Wisdom is the skill and understanding to do life God's way, to experience God's blessing and favor.

#3: Pre-decide ACTIONS *Ephesians 2:7-9*

- 2 Timothy 2:22
- Escape youthful lusts, it's not about being strong, it's about knowing when to retreat, run like your house is on fire!

#4: Pursue ACTIONS *Ephesians 2:10*

- A committed small group of believers can do wonders for each other using the process of honest, soul-searching accountability.

Doing Deliberate Discipleship

Romans 12:1-2

God wants all of you

- Every decision, action, thought, and intention can be traced back to the COMMITMENT to live for God sacrificially.

Break the pattern of the world. How?

- By renewing your mind, by TRAINING to approach life with a different mental framework.
- *Whatever images I sow in my mind, I will reap the results.*
- *I've developed Biblical convictions from the Word of God.*
- *I've pondered the consequences of failure and made some pre-decisions about what I think about, watch and do.*
- *I have a few close friends who I have shared these convictions with, and help me keep my commitments to God.*
- *What release from restrictions and frustrations in areas of life. What joy and peace. What a relationship with your spouse God will allow you to share.*

What about you?

- How would you describe the present state of your relationships? Is sexual purity a strength or a struggle?
- Are you willing to stop, step back, and reevaluate?
- Would you be willing to prayerfully develop specific personal convictions for yourself, work through, and implement a game-plan God gives you?

Why?

- The loving relationship you want demands sexual purity, and sexual purity demands a game plan.

Accept God's design for genuine love. Commit yourself to His standard of purity. Apply His prescription for relationships, loving His way!

For completed notes of today's sermon, visit the FFC website – www.faithfellowship.us. Thanks.