



PLEA FOR PURITY

I Tim. 5:22c "Keep thyself pure..."

I Pet. 2:11b "...abstain from fleshly lusts..."

II Pet. 1:5b "...add to your faith virtue..."

I John 3:3 "...purifyeth himself..."

by J. Paul Reno

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PURITY: A FORSAKEN PRACTICE

Purity used to be expected of people in the world and the church alike. Today's modern churches no longer require purity of members. Churches now honor those who will take a vow to stay pure for a certain length of time, instead of recognizing it as the common or normal custom.

Our nation has slid to the point that doctors are amazed to find young ladies who have kept their virginity. Our President and his wife are allowed to live in moral impurity, perhaps because the nation knows they have tolerated the same sin in their homes. Purity is truly a neglected practice.

PURITY: GOD'S PROVISION

God's concern for purity is shown in His provision for us. We have the pure Word of God.

God's Son, the Savior of mankind is pure. There is no fault in Jesus. The blood of Jesus Christ is also pure. Christ's blood provided the perfect sacrifice to cleanse us from sin. God's love is pure. It is free from any ulterior or wrong motive. God's name is pure. God has provided purity in who He is and what He does.

God also provided the gift of purity to mankind at birth. Every person is born with a sin nature, but with moral purity. The only way to lose this moral purity is through sin. Don't throw away God's precious gift of virtue for moments of sinful pleasure.

PURITY: KEEP IT

I Timothy 5:22 says, "Lay hands suddenly on no ~~man~~, neither be partaker of other man's sins: keep thyself pure." God allowed every person to start out pure and He commands us to keep ourselves pure.

We are told in Revelation 14:1-5 that there will be young men who have kept themselves pure.

And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the

Lamb. And in their mouth was found
no guile: for they are without fault
before the throne of God.

Chapter seven of Revelation states that there will be
144,000 Jewish young men who are virgins. Twelve
thousand will come from each of the 12 tribes.

Men, women, teenagers, and now boys and
girls are throwing away their purity daily. Be
encouraged that God will keep the 144,000 pure. Pray
that God will intervene and raise up a generation that
is pure to serve Him in our day and time.

PURITY: SEEK IT

While some have kept themselves pure, many
have lost their God given virtue. Those who have
married and stayed true to their vows have not lost
their virtue according to Hebrews 13:4. "Marriage is
honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but
whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

Whoremongers and adulterers however, have forfeited their purity for, "the pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:25).

I John 3:1-3 reminds us that as God is pure, so must we purify ourselves.

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

In I Timothy 5:22 we are told to keep ourselves pure, and in I John we are told to purify ourselves. For those who have not stayed pure morally, strive to be as pure as

possible now. Place boundaries, that would be walls of protection to keep yourselves pure. Purify yourselves.

PURITY: A BLESSING or
THE PRICE OF IMPURITY

God explains the high cost of living in moral impurity. Proverbs 2:16-19 says,

To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead. None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.

Those that have crossed the line and have lost their virtue cannot get it back. "None that go unto her

return again." They have given away their gift of purity and it cannot be recovered.

Another warning is given in Proverbs 5:1-11.

My son attend unto wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge. For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on Hell. Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them, Hear me now therefore, ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thee far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour unto others,

and thy years unto the cruel: Lest
strangers be filled with thy wealth; and
thy labors be in the house of a stranger;
And thou mourn at the last when thy
flesh and thy body are consumed.

Oh how sweet the words of a strange woman
sound, but the result leads to sorrow. Your honor
will be given unto others. Strangers will receive
your wealth and at the end you will mourn because
of what you have done. It will cost you more than
you know to not live pure.

God says the reproach of living in moral
impurity will not be wiped away in Proverbs
6:24-32.

To keep thee from the evil woman, from
the flattery of the tongue of a strange
woman. Lust not after her beauty in
thine heart; neither let her take thee
with her eyelids. For by means of a
whorish woman a man is brought to a

piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbor's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

Dishonour will be the result of impurity.

Paul warns us in I Corinthians 6:18-20 that moral impurity is a sin against your body. "Flee

fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." Every time that a young man commits fornication, he has damaged his own body.

When I taught in a public school, there were men who watched the students walk through the halls as they came in each morning. Then at lunch they would sit and discuss which of the students had lost their virginity in the last night or two. Just by looking at them when they came in, the men were able to tell who had thrown away their gift of purity. They had sinned against their bodies and it showed.

Peter writes in I Peter 2:11 "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." Not only will impure living affect your body, it will also bring damage to your soul.

In Colossians 3:5 we are told to mortify fornication.

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

We must not tolerate this sin. As Christians we are commanded to keep ourselves pure and purify ourselves.

Ephesians 5:3 says, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you as becometh saints." The concepts of virtue and purity should not be neglected, rather they should be evident in all Christians. Fornication should be unheard of among Christians.

God places a high priority on virtue and purity. II Peter 1:4-7 states that immediately after salvation we should add to our faith virtue.

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

Virtue is the first and foremost concern after faith. Christians should be concerned about virtue before knowledge. If there is an absence of virtue, knowledge will be hindered. It is possible that a person would be, "ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (II Timothy 3:7). We must keep ourselves pure so that we can add a right knowledge to our virtue.

PURITY: OUR PRAYER AND BATTLECRY

Purity is of utmost importance to living godly lives. We need purity in our thought lives, consciences, souls, minds, and bodies. We must be pure for God our Savior is pure and this is His command.

For those who have kept themselves pure consider Romans 12:1.

I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto god which is your reasonable service.

The Bible says that it is only sensible that you present your body as a pure and holy sacrifice to God for His service. God gave you the gift of purity at birth. Keep it so you can present yourself as an acceptable sacrifice for His work.

For those who have lost your purity, look at John 8. A woman has been caught in the very act of immorality. Jesus tells her accusers, that if any of them are without sin, they may cast a stone at her. Her accusers left, because none of them could say they had not sinned. When they were gone, Jesus asked the woman in verse 10, "Woman where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?" Her reply came in verse 11. "No man Lord."

Note her submission to His Lordship as well as the response of Jesus at the end of verse 11. "...Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." Though she did not have a holy body, she did have a holy Savior and His glorious salvation. Jesus told her she was no longer under condemnation, but neither was she to ever go back to her sin. If you too have lost your purity, let Jesus cleanse you. Then, "go and sin no more."

We must first keep ourselves pure. Then pray and prepare for a pure generation to serve God. We

must not tolerate impurity. God expects purity and so must we.

Jesus said, "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel."
(Mark 1:15b)

The Apostle Paul testified, "Repentance toward God,
and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ."
(Acts 20:21b)

"The Gospel...by which also ye are saved...Christ
died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that
He was buried, and that He rose again the third day
according to the Scriptures."
(I Corinthians 15:1-4)

For more help or answers to your questions,
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