

Purity

A Panel with Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

II. Reasons for purity.

A. The requirement of drawing near to God is a pure heart. (Matthew 5:8)

B. God wants to use clean vessels. (2 Timothy 2:19-22)

1. Status does not matter.

2. God cannot use an unclean vessel.

C. "Like Father like son" - we are to be like God. (1 Peter 1:15-16)

1. God is holy - separate from all creation.

2. He is elevated above all else. (Isaiah 20:45)

3. God is perfect in all moral aspects. (Habakkuk 1:13, 1 John 1:5)

4. We are to be holy in all of our conduct.

5. There is a great contrast to our holiness and God's. (Isaiah 6)

6. We can thank God that He is merciful in light of our sinful conditions, but this does not do away with the fact that He has standards for us to keep.

III. The importance of sexually pure lives. (1 Thessalonians 4)

A. The commands for purity is on authority from Jesus.

B. The will of God is that one is sanctified and abstains from sexual immorality.

1. Sanctification is being set apart.

2. Sexual immorality is fornication and is concerned with an unmarried man having sex with a woman.

3. The world is concerned with expressionism in regards to sexuality.

C. Each person is to know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor.

1. The application is that the standards and process for relating to the opposite sex should be different.

2. This is not to be done in lustful passion - a sexual appetite.

3. God's way is through the Holy Spirit.

4. One is not to defraud - or arouse something through deceit. A girl is defrauded when sexually aroused outside of marriage because something is aroused that cannot be righteously satisfied. God is the avenger in this.

D. One is to put to death the feelings of the flesh. (Colossians 3:5, 1 Peter 2:11)

IV. How to live a sexually pure life.

A. The worldly person will allow some sexual desire and then tries to repress them. This does not work - the issue has to be dealt with immediately.

B. One is to walk by the Spirit in regards to his passions. (Galatians 5:13)

C. A first step is submission. This is yielding the whole self. If you yield your sex life to God you become a dynamic Christian.

V. Discussion panel.

A. Masturbation.

1. It is sin because it is not a product of being filled with the Holy Spirit - it is a losing of control over the body in that the person is given over to the lust of the flesh.

2. The sin that the Bible pinpoints is the sin of lust. Man's sexual appetites are stimulated by the mind. An uncontrolled thought life leads to inevitable consequence. The Bible puts the focus on the thought before the act. It seems that lust is a life-long struggle. (Job 31:1, Proverbs 4:25)

B. Dealing with lust when tired or unfocused.

1. The overwhelming principle in Scripture is substitution. One is to change activity.

2. It helps to change perspective from dwelling on the problem to claiming the victory over the sin.

3. The greatest emotional deterrent to this kind of sin is fear. Fear of exposure can help defeat this sin.

4. Our culture puts too much emphasis on the physical. Fasting has helped to break this.

5. Scripture memory helps to deter this. (Psalm 119:111)

C. Controlling the eyes.

1. Prayer is helpful. It is also helpful to know the wretchedness of what distracts us from God.

2. It sometimes helps to know what areas to avoid so that the person will not be tempted.

3. Keeping Scripture memory cards on hand helps also. Carry your memory pack with you at all times.
4. A wise man turns away from evil - he is cautious. Man's eyes are never satisfied. (Proverbs 13, Proverbs 27:20, Job 31:1)
5. One is to regard a woman as his sister. (1 Timothy 5:1-2)
6. A practical help if not reviewing verses is to pray for men that one sees. This keeps one from being distracted.

D. Practical ways to deal with defeat in this area.

1. A spiritual brother can help with accountability. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)
2. Know God's forgiveness and His desire to restore. God's mercy is meant to lead to repentance. (Isaiah 57)
3. God may be working on a man in the area of pride before He addresses his sexual purity needs.

E. Where you draw the line in touching girls.

1. You have to set up ground rules since a woman will easily throw herself physically at someone she loves and a man will throw himself at someone he does not.

F. How to develop positive relationships with girls.

1. Sex drive is important because it is related to one's energy and creativity - they are related together.
2. One needs to be sensitive about not zeroing in on one girl in particular. You could be distracting her.
3. Men can serve women in ways they cannot help themselves.
4. Relationships need to be developed with women as people not just as potential relationships.
5. Group fellowship helps to reveal real character and helps to develop acceptance.

VI. Conclusion.

- A. It is important to submit your sex life and future spouse to God.

B. One needs to get into the Scriptures to gain principles about how God wants him to govern his relationships.

Application questions.

1. How is it that walking in the Spirit will help with the lusts of the flesh? What does this mean?

2. What points stood out to you in discussion? What was the most helpful?

3. Where are you at in regards to the issue of sexual purity? It has been said that it is insane to expect change if nothing changes in your life. What do you plan to do to guard against sexual immorality?
