

Uncommon Virtues

Sexual Purity

This sermon is a call to sexual purity. In other lessons and other books we will explore steps to overcoming sexual sin and issues to do with sexuality. *Gen 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

God invented sex and thought it was good. In fact, it was the first thing God referred to in the blessing. In the right context (marriage) this is true. Outside of God's protective boundaries there are negative consequences.

“God does not ‘hate’ sex; he hates faithless sex with forbidden women, but he loves faithful sexual expressions in the context of marriage. God loves it so much that he commands, not just that it happen, but that it be enjoyed to the point of intoxication.” Heath Lambert (Finally Free: Fighting for Purity with the Power of Grace).

How do you view sex in general?

How do you view sex in the context of marriage?

Do you feel awkward talking about sex?

What and who has influenced and shaped your view of sex?

It is important to thoroughly examine this subject so that we embrace the blessing God has intended and avoid the negative consequences of violating His principles in this area. Here is what was said in the letter read to the Church in Antioch.

Acts 15:29 that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell.”

However look at the Old Testament consequences of non-compliance:

Deuteronomy 22:23-25 If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, 24 you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death—the young woman because she was in a town and did not scream for help, and the man because he violated another man’s wife. You must purge the evil from among you. 25 But if out in the country a man happens to meet a young woman pledged to be married and rapes her, only the man who has done this shall die.

We must remember that God has someone in store for that person so we must not violate them.

Prov 30:18 – 19 There are three things too wonderful for me, four that I cannot understand: 19 the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship at sea, and the way of a man with a maiden.

Sex is a mystery. One is left feeling baffled by some people's choices; why they would leave a beautiful wife and go after a dodgy character. Why do women run to men who they know will beat them up?

1 Cor 6:17 – 20 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.

“Nothing has stolen more dreams, dashed more hopes, broken up more families, and messed up more people psychologically than our propensity to disregard God’s commands regarding sexual purity.” Andy Stanley

What does the bible say about Sexual Purity?

1. Sexual purity is always God’s will for you.

1 Thess 4:3-6 *3 It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body[a] in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.[b] The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before.*

Too many people are rationalizing away their fornication. Be careful of saying things like “God understands, we are married in our hearts” etc. Even if you grew up seeing a lot of immorality be careful that your conscience is not seared in this area. There is still a Christian standard. Elsewhere Paul instructs Timothy to treat the young women as he would a sister. This applies to you regardless of your age.

2. We are called to be good stewards of our bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:13 *Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.*

Do you know the purpose of your body?

What would you do differently if you fully believed that your body belongs to God?

1 Corinthians 6:19 *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*

Be careful who or what you give yourself over to.

Ephesians 4:19 *and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.*

This is why demons often attach themselves to such practices. You can give yourself over to an unclean spirit of lust and sensuality. If you need to take a dress to your tailor to stitch up because it is inappropriate then do so. You are not a victim. My wife has sometimes phoned me asking me to bring extra clothing items for people.

3. We have been called to avoid sexual immorality completely.

1 Corinthians 6:18 *Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.*

Sexual purity is crucial as the impact of sexual immorality is in its own category.

Immorality = porneia = surrender, selling off

“Until God is your chief concern — until sinning against him is what makes your heart break — you will never turn the corner.” Heath Lambert

How do you think people can practically flee from temptation?

Can you think of situations where people played around in risky situations and ended up falling?

What makes it difficult for many people to flee?

Marriages can be fast tracked in order to avoid immorality. You can flee temptation by getting married and avoiding extended periods where you are burning with passion and awakening love prematurely.

1 Corinthians 7:9 *But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

What are the implications of this scripture?

What's your view with regards to very long relationships and courtships?

What are the dangers associated with long engagements?

4. There are consequences to sexual immorality.

Hebrews 13:4 *Marriage is to be held in honour among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

Colossians 3:5-6 *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.*

1 Cor 6:9 – 10 *Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men[a] 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God*

Gal 5:19 – 21 *The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

It is interesting how similar these two passages are. There is a way a Christian lives. A BMW engine will never sound like a Mini even though BMW bought Mini Cooper in 1996.

5. The Bible has a clear position on sexual immorality and perversion.

1 Tim 1:8 – 11 *We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. 9 We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, 10 for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurors—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine 11 that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.*

Sexual immorality is a deed of the flesh. Let's not call it something else like sexual expression etc

Galatians 5:19 *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,*

Can you give some examples of sensuality? For example, some people are sensual in how they dance.

How does this affect how to treat others?

6. You can change and be delivered in the area of sexual purity.

1 Corinthians 6:11 *Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

In verses 8 to 10 Paul had mentioned homosexuals, adulterers, drunkards etc as examples of people who God can change. He says, “such were some of you.”

Do you know people that have changed radically in this area of immorality?

2 Corinthians 7:1 *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

“Every instance of treasuring images of sexual immorality in our hearts, every eager glance at pornography, all of our lustful gawking — everything — is paid for by Jesus in his death for sinners.” Heath Lambert

Be delivered from the roving eyes. Be like Job who made a covenant with his eyes.

7. Christians must have a different standard.

Ephesians 5:3 *But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.*

Colossians 3:5 *Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.*

Acts 15:20 *but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.*

Do the Christians in your circles have a different standard?

Consecration of your body

(Declarations that can be adapted for both married and single people):

This is a powerful declaration and purity code that you can personalise and place somewhere as a reminder to keep on declaring. You can even purchase something that symbolises this commitment you are making to remain pure. Some people will buy a ring and others a chain.

- 1. My body was not made to participate in any kind of sexual activity outside of marriage; instead, it was made to glorify God (1 Corinthians 6:13-20). My body belongs to Him because He purchased it with the blood of Jesus. As a result, the Holy Spirit came to live inside of me, and I am now one with God. I will not defile this temple by having sex before marriage.**
- 2. I choose not to look at anyone in a lustful way (Matthew 5:28). I know how to abstain from sexual sin and honour God with my body (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4).**
- 3. I purpose not to damage my soul (my mind, will and emotions) by participating in sex outside of marriage (Proverbs 6:32). Neither do I go to places or associate with people who tempt me to have premarital sex (Proverbs 7:7-8).**
- 4. I allow the wisdom and knowledge of God to control my thoughts so I can avoid the immoral people who try to seduce me (Proverbs 2:10,16).**

5. I guard my heart and mind by meditating on God's Word daily. I will not allow any immoral thoughts to stay in my mind. Instead, I cast down every thought that is contrary to God's Word by speaking the Word over my life. I do not look to the right or to the left, but straight ahead to the Word of God (Proverbs 4:23-27; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5).
6. I will not allow past sins to hinder me from inheriting the blessings of God (Romans 4:7; 1 John 1:9; Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:12-14; Ephesians 1:6-7).

"This is the vicious cycle of lust. Lust never has what it wants because it never has enough. Lust steals joy by creating an endless state of discontentment in the constant search for that one next thing you don't have yet. Lust is never happy because lust is never full." Heath Lambert

A good source for a purity code is homeword.com led by Jim Burns. He says that if you choose to live by the Purity Code, you'll care for your relationship with God, your family, and your future spouse. Even beyond these, you'll care for others who will look up to you as a role model and you won't cause them to make mistakes in their future relationships. See below:

The Purity Code Pledge

In honour of God, my family, and my future spouse,

I commit my life to sexual purity. This involves:

™Honouring God with my body.

™Renewing my mind for the good.

™Turning my eyes from worthless things.

™Guarding my heart above all else.

Name.....Signature.....Date.....

Appendix 1

How to Identify a Player

Mr Ladies' man

1. You enjoy attention from women
2. You enjoy admiration from women
3. You reflect a lot on whether a woman likes you or not
4. You often escape into fantasies involving admiration from women
5. You are more confident around ladies than men
6. You pour out easily at an emotional level to women rather than men
7. You find it difficult to reject advances from women

8. You tend to flirt with women.
9. Your spouse complains a lot about your indiscretion with women.
10. You do not have strict boundaries and rules of engagement with regards to your interaction with women.
11. You are known as a player
12. You overestimate how many women are attracted to you.
13. You see yourself as attractive.
14. You are addicted to the challenge, chase and game of “love”.
15. You are very charming.
16. You don’t value the truth.
17. You are comfortable making white lies and twisting the truth.
18. You talk a lot about how you are not a player.
19. You disguise yourself as a caring gentleman.
20. You have very good verbal skills and you use this to your advantage.
21. You have the gift of the gab and tend to talk your way out of trouble – gaslighting.
22. You have the gift of the gab which helps you to get out of sticky situations.
23. You enjoy female attention on social media.
24. You get bored of just being with one woman.
25. You keep telling ladies that you are not ready for something serious despite leading them on.
26. You tend to always be too busy for the woman in your life.
27. The women in your life have heard rumours that you are a womaniser.