



Be Pure!

“Sex is like fire. In the fireplace, it keeps us warm. Outside the fireplace, it burns the house down.”

—Ray Ortlund, in *Marriage and the Mystery of the Gospel*

THE CALL TO PURITY

1 John 3:2-3 (NIV) *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV) *Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

1 Corinthians 6:13-20 (NIV) ... *The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do 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.” ¹⁷But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.***

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (NIV) *Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NIV) *It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality [porneia]; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵ not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. ⁷ **For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.** ⁸Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.*

1. GOD INVENTED SEX, AND IT IS GOOD!

2. GOD INTENDS FOR SEX TO BE ENJOYED WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF MARRIAGE, PERIOD.

A. To Protect Us...

B. To Provide for Us...

3. FOR GOD’S PEOPLE PURITY IS TO BE A LIFELONG PURSUIT

A. Purity of heart is impacted by what we see with our EYES.

B. In marriage, sex should never be used to MANIPULATE.

C. Sex before marriage is SINFUL and a huge mistake, even when you ‘love’ each other.

D. Purity means not pressing someone beyond God’s boundaries or what their CONSCIENCE will allow.

E. Pornography is POISON. Consume it at your own peril.

F. At its core, sexual purity is a SATISFACTION issue.

PURSUE A LIFE OF PURITY!

What if I’ve already blown it in this area?