

Purity in Thought, Word, and Deed



Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, (10) but rather by means of good works as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

~I Timothy 2:9-10

Introduction to purity

Why Purity is vital:

Titus 2:3-5

³Older women likewise are to be **reverent in their behavior** [for our own godliness], not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, **teaching what is good** [qualifies us to teach others];

⁴so that they may **encourage (train) the young women** [qualifies us to teach others] to love their husbands, to love their children,

⁵to be sensible, **pure** [in relationships with other men], workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, **so that the word of God will not be dishonored** [for the reputation of God].

Description of Purity

Purity is a human moral character trait which in the KJV is translated “chaste” from the Greek word ‘*hagnos*’ meaning without moral defect; that word comes from ‘*hagios*’ meaning holy, pure, divine.

Examples:

1. Mary, the mother of Jesus, had a heart and mind filled with the Word of God. **Luke 1:28** tells us that Mary *found favor with God*. She is a brilliantly shining example of keeping herself pure. All creation knows she was a virgin! Mary's purity and virginity were crucial to Jesus' being virgin-born, authenticating His deity and sinlessness.
2. Ruth was a heathen woman who learned about the true God from her husband's family. As a widow she had a kinsman redeemer enter her life. **Ruth 3:7-14** reveals her godliness and purity as she lay at his feet through the night indicating her desire to marry him. Her excellent character was exclaimed in verse 11 when Boaz declared, *All the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman*.



Opposite of Purity

Impurity implies immodesty; pollution; having inappropriate actions with the opposite gender.

Examples:

1. Dinah was the daughter of Jacob and Leah. She left the safety of her home for social interaction to see *the daughters of the land*. A Canaanite man took her, lay with her and violated her. She fell victim to the desires and lusts of someone else and Dinah was shamed and forgotten. Why? Her curiosity and failure to use good wisdom contributed to her defilement. **Genesis 34**
2. Potiphar's wife, on the other hand, was an immoral woman with a lack of decency and virtue. She failed to hold her thoughts and passions in check, and therefore hurt someone else, someone who was moral and pure (Joseph!). **Genesis 39**

We are not born pure! (**Psalm 51: 5**) **Titus 2:12-13** indicate that God's grace does not automatically keep us from worldly passion. As careful as you choose to be, you can still be blindsided by the world! Fashion and entertainment energize the Prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:1-3). If a past of impurity left you with regret, shame and guilt or you are suffering due to temptation or weakness in this area, **Christ is the answer!**

- ☞ Recognize the problem.
- ☞ Ask forgiveness. (**I John 1:9; Isaiah 1:18**)
- ☞ Put it behind you.
- ☞ Determine to make right choices with God's help.

Proverbs 7 gives us a depraved woman's thoughts, words and deeds:

- v. 9, She appeared at night.
- v. 10, She was conspicuous in her dress.
- v. 11, Her voice was loud and boisterous. She was stubborn and restless in character.
- v. 11-12, She was "out there" rather than being at home.
- v. 13, Her methods included physically and aggressively kissing men.
- v. 14-18, Her words were deceptive and sensual; she spoke of her sexual desires.

Help your husband avoid the temptations of strange women and immorality in the world. See that he is *exhilarated* with your love (Proverbs 5:19). Pray for your husband in his physical and spiritual battles.

Aspects of Purity

1. Pure in **heart**

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

~Matthew 5:8

Self-restraint is the basis of pure thoughts, words and deeds. Each woman should examine her motives and goals. With a humble heart do you want to worship God or do you want to call attention to yourself?



A call to purity is truly a matter of the heart.

2. Pure in **mind**

Colossians 3:1 tells us to *Keep seeking* (earnestly strive for) *the things above*. The statement, ²*Set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on the earth*, means to concentrate your concern on the eternal rather than the temporal.

Avoid the corruption of the world around you!

videos
talk shows
newspapers
romance novels
magazines
TV interviews
billboards, etc.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .

~Romans 12:2

Whatever is pure . . . if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

~Philippians 4:8

These are objects of a wholesome thought life. We need to learn to say “No” to any thoughts that might cause us to fantasize about any other man. What is the remedy?

Your word I have treasured in my heart that I may not sin against You.

~Psalm 119:11

Instead, fill your mind with reading, studying, memorizing, meditating on, cherishing and living by the Word of God!



Your heart's job is to pump in
tune with the heart of God.

3. Pure in **word**

. . . for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

~Matthew 12:34

*Let no **corrupt** speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for edifying as the need may be, that it may give grace to them that hear. (ASV)*

~Ephesians 4:29

This includes vulgar talk, words that are crass, crude, loose morally, sarcasm, even slang.

Be careful of your speech around other men.

- ⌘ Endearing terms
- ⌘ Compliments
- ⌘ Discussing sexual issues (crossing line of intimacy)

4. Pure in **deed**

. . . whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

~I Corinthians 10:31

Two **basic** premises:

- ⌘ **Men are stimulated by visual orientation.** Don't make it difficult for a man to control his flesh. If he lusts in his heart, it may be our fault, and God calls that adultery (**Matthew 5:28**).
- ⌘ In the fashion industry **styles and standards change, but the Word of God never changes!**
The most trouble is caused by an improper fit at the breast, hips or thighs. One of the most important decisions we ladies make every day is *what to wear!*

Guidelines of Purity

. . . I desire that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation; . . . which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

~1 Timothy 2:9-10

1. **Moderation** is discretion; good judgment; the ability to avoid words, actions, and attitudes which could result in undesirable consequences.

Discretion will guard you, understanding will watch over you.

~Proverbs 2:11

2. **Propriety** is appropriate behavior; to reflect reverence.
3. **Modesty** in 1 Timothy 2:9 means “well arranged” and strictly refers to the order and appropriateness of women’s dress.

Genesis 2-3 gives the *original reason* for wearing clothes, and that was for sexual modesty. The *world’s purpose* of clothes for women has always been to make them seductive and more sexually attractive. Remember, **purity is a matter of the heart**.

We should emphasize our Christian character rather than our bodies. When you go home, look through your closet and ask the Lord to make your intentions pure and modest. Check for those articles which may cause a brother to stumble because they are too

sheer, too short, too tight, too revealing, extreme and trendy, prudish or even frumpy! God is pleased when we apply biblical standards of modesty, femininity and appropriateness.

I **Peter 3:4** gives us the guide for inner adorning, which is *a meek and quiet spirit*. Our goal should be to stand before the Lord one day having lived a self-controlled, godly, upright life.



Make modest comfortable!



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