

PURITY COVENANT



From the world's viewpoint, maintaining sexual purity before marriage seems like cruel and unusual punishment. Many people consider it strange if a couple does not sleep together before they are married. "After all," they say, "shouldn't they find out whether they are sexually compatible?"

God's Word regarding sex cuts right across the grain of our culture. The culture portrays sexual intimacy between two unmarried people as something as casual and innocuous as holding hands, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Read the following verses and seek to understand God's perspective of sex. Sex is God's idea.

You shall not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14).

Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart (2 Timothy 2:22).

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him (Ephesians 1:4).

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY" (1 Peter 1:14-16).

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love (2 Peter 1:5-7).

For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God (Ephesians 5:5).

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge (Hebrew 13:4).

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things (Philippians 4:8).

But I want you to be wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil (Romans 16:19).

It is easy to know another person sexually, especially in our present culture. But a marriage relationship requires much, much more than physical intimacy. There first need to be spiritual and emotional intimacy to build trust, commitment and communication. Marriage is a lifelong covenant to love and care and nourish.

God had our best in mind when He gave us strong directives about sexual purity before marriage. There are many benefits to staying pure before marriage. By waiting until marriage:

- ✓ You please God.
- ✓ You build trust and trust is necessary for intimacy.
- ✓ You develop the godly qualities of patience and self-control.
- ✓ You affirm that you care more for the other person than for yourself.
- ✓ You protect yourself from feelings of guilt and shame.

- ✓ You provide yourself with an example to give your children.
- ✓ You are protected from emotional, mental and physical trauma should you break off your relationship.
- ✓ You develop healthy communication habits and skills.
- ✓ You avoid the possibility of an unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease.
- ✓ You maintain a clear conscience before God and man.
- ✓ You increase the anticipation and enjoyment of your wedding night.
- ✓ You experience the blessing of obedience.
- ✓ You discover more about each other than just the physical.
- ✓ You maintain a witness to a lost world.
- ✓ You keep from bringing reproach on the name of Christ.

Moral Excellence

Sexual purity is especially difficult during the engagement period. You have declared your commitment and you naturally want to consummate the relationship. You may even feel married at points. Yet what better time to establish your relationship and build trust in one another by obeying God than on this key point.

Sexual purity means much more than not having sexual intercourse before marriage. Many couples avoid intercourse but are still sexually intimate. Look again at the verses quoted previously. Scripture defines sexual purity as being morally excellent. And moral excellence means *being holy*. It means avoiding the appearance of evil. It means purity of thought as well as purity of deed. It means protecting one another's innocence from being stained by evil.

OUR CHALLENGE TO YOU IS TO DO MUCH MORE
THAN REMAIN ABSTINENT UNTIL YOUR MARRIAGE.
OUR CHALLENGE IS TO BE PURE.

Next Steps

1. Take the Purity Covenant and place it before you. Read through the sections one at a time.
2. After you have read through all four passages and commitments, sign and date the Covenant.
3. If they are not with you, have the pastor sign the Purity Covenant at your next meeting. They will ask you if you are honoring your covenant before signing.

PURITY COVENANT



BIBLICAL STANDARD

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you."

IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMAND, I PROMISE
TO PROTECT YOUR SEXUAL PURITY FROM
THIS DAY UNTIL OUR HONEYMOON.

BIBLICAL STANDARD

1 Corinthians 6:18-20: "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you now 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? For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body."

BECAUSE I RESPECT AND HONOR YOU, I COMMIT
TO BUILDING UP THE INNER PERSON OF YOUR
HEART RATHER THAN VIOLATING YOU.

BIBLICAL STANDARD

Acts 24:16: "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men."

I PLEDGE TO SHOW MY LOVE FOR YOU IN WAYS
THAT ALLOW BOTH OF US TO MAINTAIN A CLEAR
CONSCIENCE BEFORE GOD AND EACH OTHER.

BIBLICAL STANDARD

Matthew 5: 28: "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

I WILL BE COMMITTED TO THE PURSUIT OF SEXUAL PURITY AND REJECT
SINS SUCH AS LUST AND PORNOGRAPHY IN ORDER FOR BOTH OF US TO
MAINTAIN A CLEAR CONSCIENCE BEFORE GOD AND EACH OTHER.

This is my promise of purity.

Signed _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Date _____

Witnessed/affirmed by _____

Date _____