

Q & A Summary...

How does my purity relate to God's will, and is it more a matter of the heart or outward expression?

Mark 12:30; 7:21

What passages specifically address purity?

What passages specifically speak about purity of the mind rather than just the body?

Proverbs 7:6-27, (sense, vs. 21 seductive speech persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him, vs.24-25, i.e., heart)

Matthew 5:28. (Proverbs 4:23; James 1:13-15; Luke 11:34-35)

Accountability

How do we keep others accountable for purity?

Proverbs 4:23, 1 John 1:5-9, Ephesian 5:1-4;

Who should be my accountability partner? How do you start that conversation?

Galatians 6:1

I've had accountability with several people already. Why did that not work?

Matthew 5:18, 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

Should we create homework or look for homework in this renewing process?

Yes! Only God can transform a sinful heart Ps. 51:10, but we are co-workers in the pursuit of purity. Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18. Romans 13:14).

Deeper topics

Sexual sins

Question: Is Masturbation ever not sin?

Mattew 5:27ff; Luke 9:23 2 Peter 2:19, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

Answer: I would add that the world views masturbation as a harmless activity. However, masturbation is an attempt at sexual gratification outside of God's design for intimacy between two individuals. Studies recently conducted have shown that masturbation often leads to loneliness. "Butler et al. found that people who viewed pornography were more apt to experience loneliness, and lonely people were more likely to view pornography. In explaining the association, they note that pornography watching may create loneliness as a consequence of relationship distress and disruption of attachment, which may cause separation and emotional distancing within a pair-bonded couple. They also note that the sexual script of many kinds of pornography, which often consists of "eroticism, objectification,

promiscuity, and misogyny,” is contrary to secure attachment, which is associated with loneliness. See Butler, Mark H., Samuel A. Pereyra, Thomas W. Draper, Nathan D. Leonhardt, and Kevin B. Skinner. “Pornography Use and Loneliness: A Bidirectional Recursive Model and Pilot Investigation.” *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy* 44, no. 2 (February 2018): 127–37. doi:10.1080/0092623X.2017.1321601.

Question: Can inappropriate dreams be a sin?

Answer: I don’t believe inappropriate dreams are a sin. But Phil 4:8-9 and 2 Cor 10:5 speak to how we are thinking when we are awake and what we feed our mind with.

Question: What physical ways can a pornography addiction be combated?

Answer: Micromanaging your thoughts (2 Cor. 10:5) and your time to think and acting rightly (Phil 4:8-9). Limiting one’s time in those spaces when one is most tempted. Fleeing evil is having the wisdom to foresee evil and then avoid it. Prov. 22:3, “A prudent man sees the evil, and hides himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.”

Relationships

Question: How should we counsel someone who is struggling with homosexual tendencies?

Answer: 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Co 6:11

Question:

How should one communicate with parents that finding a Christian partner who does not have some form of a sexual past (pornography, masturbation, sex, etc.) is now extremely rare and so it is hard to find someone who is biblically pure or a virgin?

Answer: (Paraphrase Josh. 2:1-24 Cf to Mt. 1. Eph. 6:2; 1 Cor 6:9-11)

Question: Why is personal purity important before marriage?

Answer: (1 Th. 4:1-8; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 John 3:3; Heb 13:4)

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Bonus round questions: These are some of our unanswered questions that I urge you to find answers to!

- Should we, as Christians, use people's preferred pronouns rather than their correct ones?
- What advice do you have to help couples set boundaries even when they are off campus?
- When do my thoughts, desires, things I'm looking at, turn into sinful lust?
- How should one communicate with parents that finding a Christian partner who does not have some form of a sexual past (pornography, masturbation, sex, etc.) is now extremely rare and so it is hard to find someone who is biblically pure or a virgin?
- Is the Bible black and white about purity or is this more of an area where Christian liberty is applied?
- What should I do when I can't get out of the cycle of sin, repent, fall, repeat?