

### **13. Sexual Purity (Maintaining the Temple)**

***“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.” (1 Corinthians 6:18-20 NKJV)***

We live in a culture that views sexual activity primarily as a pleasure that consenting adults have the right to enjoy, provided they are not, in their opinion, hurting anyone else. Pretty much anything goes as immoral behaviors have now simply become accepted as “preferences.” Not that this is anything new, as down through the ages, including in the time of Christ, the devil has used man’s most powerful natural urge to lead people away from God. In coming to faith in Christ, many say that they have never imagined that the sin they are engaged in is actually even wrong. Living together out of wedlock, divorce, homosexual relationships, watching graphic sexual movies, and masturbation are all considered normal behaviors.

A closer investigation of these behaviors leads us to discover that not only are they hurting others, but they are hurting us. The consequences of these acts are the abortion of unwanted babies, broken homes, sexually transmitted diseases, sexual addiction, behavioral isolation, ruined ministries, and the inability to nurture a healthy relationship with our Creator.

If we are to escape the perversion that the world around us is sinking into, we must come into an accurate perception of God and His righteous standards. As the “Giver of Every Good and Perfect Gift from Above,” He is not holding back from us what is good, but rather that which will certainly lead to our spiritual demise. Viewed in this light, sexual activity within marriage is a wonderful gift from God and something to be valued, desired, and appreciated.

As we surrender self to God and allow Christ to live in us, we view our bodies as temples and instruments of righteousness, rather than instruments of unrighteousness to sin. We seek to honor God even in the most intimate desires of our hearts. Rather than missing out on anything, we find ourselves to be of all men most blessed.

## 13. Sexual Purity

Meditation Passage for the Week – 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

**Sexual Purity** is living by God's standards, maintaining a holy temple in which we use our entire lives to Glorify God

1. God is the **Giver** of Every **Good Gift**.
  - A. God the Father **desires** the **best** for His children (**Luke 11:13**).
  - B. Sexual **fulfillment** is a **gift** from God (James 1:17).
  - C. God has bestowed **many good gifts** on us (**1 Peter 3:18**).
  
2. God's Desire is to **Protect** and Not **Restrict** You.
  - A. Sexual sin has **eternal** consequences (1 Corinthians 6:9).
  - B. Sexual sin hinders the **presence** of God in our life (**2 Corinthians 6:14**).
  - C. Gods prohibitions are meant to **protect** us (**1 Corinthians 6:18**).
  
3. God's **Presence** is More **Pleasurable** than Sin.
  - A. Sin constrains our capacity for **spiritual joy** (**Psalm 16:11**).
  - B. Sin hinders the **power** of God in our lives. (Mark 4:18-19).
  - C. Sin prevents us from **glorifying** God (1 Corinthians 10:31).
  
4. Our **Passion** Must Remain **Primarily** For God's Glory.
  - A. Our **passion** must be for God's glory (1 Peter 4:16).
  - B. We must view **everything** as it **relates** to God (**1 Corinthians 2:16**).
  - C. We must recall the price that God **paid** for our **purity** (**Romans 5:8**).
  
5. Commit to **God's** standards of **Sexual Purity**.
  - A. Sexual impurity is sex with anyone but your **wife after marriage**.
  - B. Sexual impurity is any sexual **activity** with a man, woman, or child.
  - C. Sexual impurity is sexual activity with **anyone** or **anything** except your wife.
  - D. Sexual impurity is having **lustful thoughts** in our own mind.
  - E. The primary solution to sexual impurity is **sex** in **marriage**.