
Moral Purity

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

WHERE IS IT TODAY? Do we see it demonstrated in the Hollywood movies, on our television entertainment features? Any moral precepts taught in the public school? At home? In our churches? The Bible is filled with such teaching. Why are we not hearing it? Why is the moral deterioration reaching into the lives of so many professing Christians?

God's reaction to this subject matter is plain for all to understand. He says NO to any sex relationship outside of marriage. We are left with the same two options as with all truth from God. We either obey or disobey.

The main reason for such moral deterioration is that we have lost the significance of a holy God. We seem to conclude that all He desires from us is faith, which we have in our pocket to exercise at any time. Separation unto God means getting close to His holy Person.

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality" (Thessalonians 4:3). Sanctification is a biblical term that identifies us with a holy God. It is the work of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit by which the redeemed, regenerated believer is set apart in Christ for God's plan and purpose. New Testament sanctification has never been popular within the church. Holiness is satisfactory as long as it is positional, but the demonstrative exploding reality within the lives of Christians is spurned and classified as fanaticism. Yet it is a biblical word and admonition.

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely: and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thessalonians 5:23). The previous verse states, "Abstain from every form of evil" (v.22). "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth" (John 17:19). "Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach" (Hebrews 13:12). "That I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:16).

It is God's work! Here He declares it to be so. "Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints" (I Thessalonians 3:11-13). There is no security like being free of blame, living lives of moral purity

established in holiness. Here is real reinforcement for the sexual solicitation of our day. If we are a separated person unto God, with His Holy Spirit within us, spiritual strength is our portion. God help us to practice His direction. He will! He can! "And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be my people Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a father to you. And you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (II Corinthians 6:16-18).

When we abstain from sexual immorality, we say a final NO loud and clear. That does not mean the battle is all over. What a discouraging word from an elder in my church at my age of 30. He was 65 and informed me of having the greatest battle of his lifetime with lust. By that age, I had expected an ease-up. (Cheer up, I was right!) Back to the word, abstain. It means "having nothing to do with."

In I Thessalonians 4:3-5, we know how to abstain from sexual immorality: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God." No one automatically remains morally pure. Abstinence from illicit sex is never an easy road; especially today, when so much sexually stimulating activity surrounds us. Remember, to reject a life-style of holiness is to reject God who empowers you to live it. If your life is not on a holy plain you will be susceptible to many solicitations. If you are to please God, you know His directives and His equipping you to fulfill them. "Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God" (I Thessalonians 4:1)

Steps to Immorality

Being at the wrong place at the wrong time. "Now it came to pass in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold" (II Samuel 11:1, 2). David looked in the wrong direction. No man can look upon the nude bodies of women and remain pure. The devil in our day parades them before us constantly. Better say "NO!" Don't look at the magazine or the TV program. A holy man will be satisfied with the body of his wife. She is the only one he is to possess (I Corinthians 7:3, 4). In Proverbs 7, we have an immoral relationship. The man allowed himself to get into the position of temptation. He walked near her house. His walk was in the twilight and in

the black and dark night (v. 7, 8). There must be decided guidelines as to what you will do or not do with members of the opposite sex. Friend, remove all hindrances to a holy life. Too late to get prepared will mean devastation. Remove all bitterness from your being. It is the root of most moral impurity, especially among the married. "Looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled" (Hebrews 12:15).

Say "NO," to the dictates of the flesh. "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts" (Romans 13:14). The individual who pampers the flesh, such as with overeating, sleeping, and emotional involvement is a candidate for lack of discipline in his or her moral life.

Take deliberate action. "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that ~man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body" (I Corinthians 6:18). "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (II Timothy 2:22).

The action of David and Joseph is a tremendous contrast. After many days of sexual solicitation by Potipher's wife, Joseph said "NO!" (How many days would you have lasted?) Joseph knew what sex sins really are. "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9). When the zero hour arrived, which meant no one will know, he took off. "She caught him by his garment, saying, 'Lie with me.' But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside" (Genesis 39:12). (There goes his second coat!)

The day of accounting is coming. Better plan for it during your lifetime. "For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14). You are in control. Do not allow any other person to influence you. "Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure" (I Timothy 5:22). Here comes holiness again. "therefore, having these promises, believed, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Corinthians 7:1)

But It Is Too Late!!!

I have already committed adultery! I am now living with a women or man and we are not married. If not married previously, it is fornication. If married before, it is adultery. Break it off immediately. God says "NO," which means STOP! If you repent before God, naming your sex sins, He will forgive and restore you to His fellowship. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not

inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, no effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. Nor thieves, not covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Corinthians 6:9-11).

It is never too late to cry out to God and depend upon His strength to live a clean, Godly life to His praise and Glory. You say, that would take a miracle. I know! It is the miracle of the New Birth! (John, chapter 3).

Questions for a Woman

1. Have you committed yourself to moral purity until marriage?
2. If married, are you satisfying your husband sexually, realizing your body belongs to him? (I Corinthians 7:3-5)
3. Are you having conversation with another man because of his attention and understanding heart?
4. Are you allowing your mind to be filled with impure thoughts that involve another man, situation and satisfaction?
5. Do you allow your uncontrolled emotions to be aroused by another man?
6. Do you dwell upon your husband's failures in meeting all your needs? Have you talked to him about it? To someone else?
7. Is there anything about your words, attitudes, dress or behavior that would cause a man to think lustful thoughts or stimulate him to pursue an immoral relationship?

Questions for a Man

1. Have you committed yourself to moral purity?
2. Are you inclined to laugh about immorality and at sexually-oriented jokes?
3. Do you enjoy a healthy, mutually satisfying sex relationship with your wife?
4. If unmarried, there are no sexual exceptions provided in God's word! You are to be sexually intimate with only one person on this earth — YOUR WIFE!
5. What positive action am I now taking to protect my mind and heart from moral impurity?
6. How will I respond when approached by a sensual Delilah?
7. Am I aware that moral impurity has a lifetime effect upon the lives of my children as well as myself?

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