

BE SURE TO BE PURE - 5

Contagious Christianity

"God wants you to be holy and completely free from sexual immorality."
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3

"Most people, including many Christians, unfortunately view God's call to sexual purity more as a cross to bear rather than as a blessing to enjoy."

You are a walking advertisement for the Lord Jesus Christ. God wants you to walk with distinction, particularly when it comes to moral purity. Probably nothing runs against the grain of society than that. The idea seems to be that our society can't or won't say "no" to sex outside of marriage.

But for the Christian, it's a must that we demonstrate an uncompromising commitment to sexual purity and fidelity to our mates.

Welcome

Share a recent situation in which you've felt somewhat awkward or "out of step" with the world around you because of your godly convictions.

Worship

Center your time around songs and scripture that express the Christian's desire to be separate from the world and devoted to God. "I Am Mine No More" (683), "Change My Heart, O God" (692), "Make Me New" (691), "Purer in Heart, O God" (671).

Word

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

1. God desires a people that belong exclusively to Him and to no one else (vs 3). What does this imply about how you should view your relationship toward God? Your purpose in life? Your relationships toward others? Do you consciously operate out of this mindset every day?
2. In the past, have you viewed God's call to sexual purity more as a cross to bear, or as a blessing to enjoy? Explain.
3. What godly reasons are given for avoiding sexual impurity (vss 5-8)? List as many as you can find. Which of these reasons most motivate you personally?
4. What helpful advice do you find in this passage about living a life that pleases God?
5. Why is it important for us to keep reminding ourselves of how we ought to live, specifically in the area of sexual purity?

Works

Is purity a high priority for you? From God's point of view, obedience is expressed in our bodies, or it isn't expressed at all. How is His lordship being expressed in this area of your life? What is the Lord telling you about how you can be more pleasing to Him in this particular area (vss 1, 10)?