

## Purity is for Men Too

Surprise, surprise. Purity isn't just a lifestyle designed for the women of God, but purity is for men too. In today's culture, the general consensus is that it's okay for men to be promiscuous. As a matter of fact, society not only encourages impurity amongst men, but it's pretty much expected. The American culture and Western World have redefined what it means to be men, and the average man follows this culture because it appeals to his flesh and allows him to be ungodly without wearing an unattractive label. Let's face it. Our culture celebrates sin and reproves righteousness. Nevertheless, it doesn't matter what's accepted by mankind, God's Word has not and will never change. Holiness is still right and it's not just for women.

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Peter 1:16 reads, *"Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."* What does the word "holy" mean? The Hebrew word for "holy" is "qodesh", which means "to be set apart; sacred". Modern day dictionaries have their own definitions of holy, but they are all surface definitions; none go within the depths of true holiness. To be holy means to be undefiled, sacred and uncommon. It means to be pure, righteous and without blemish. Holiness isn't just a physical condition; it's a spiritual condition. It is to have the mind of Christ, to desire what God desires, and to seek to do that which is right. Holiness radiates from within and is evident without, meaning, when a man's heart is right with God, the evidence of this thinking will shine through to his physical life. What this means is that he will practice purity because his mind and heart are set on God. He will seek to be like God, and he will hate whatsoever God hates, while loving whatsoever God loves. Holiness isn't just a condition that you effortlessly live in; it is a *daily* overcoming of the flesh. This doesn't mean that the flesh won't rise up, but what it does mean is you don't give in to the lustful desires of the flesh and you don't give occasion to the devil. For example, if you're not married, you should not be alone with an unmarried or married woman because your flesh can rise up against you, and the enemy will then use it to tempt you.

Let's get real here. Purity, as it relates to men, is unpopular, and if you practice it, you'll likely be shunned by your fellow peers, but that's okay. What many people don't realize is persecution is designed to stop you from reaching your God-given destination, therefore, the righteous thing to do is first and foremost ask the Lord for wisdom, strength, and holy boldness. Ask Him to not allow you to be afraid of the faces or opinions of man. Ask Him to teach you the fear of the Lord; that way, you'd worry more about what He says than what people say. When you reach this place of boldness, you will be lifted up by God to lead the

people of God, and the very people who once laughed at and scorned you will either humble themselves or humiliate themselves. They will watch from afar as God blesses you with your Proverbs 31 wife, God-fearing children, and a life fit for a king. Some men do the easy thing and fit in, but it takes strength, knowledge and understanding to stand out.

To be pure is to be like God. It is to wear the cloak of holiness, all the while, being led by the Spirit of God as opposed to being led by your flesh. It is to exercise self control, even while in the midst of temptation. "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (Proverbs 25:28). Please note that you should NEVER intentionally place yourself in the midst of temptation. Always avoid occasions where your flesh can be tempted, and if you find yourself in a situation like Joseph found himself in, do as Joseph did and run.

**1 Corinthians 6:18:** Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

A true leader is a person who can lead themselves through the dark valleys, the death traps, and the trappings of temptation without being ensnared by evil. A true leader overcomes evil with good. A true leader is a person who follows Christ without shame, apology or hesitation. A blind leader is a person who follows temptation and is led by their own flesh or the flesh of another human being to death's door. A blind man (or woman) will knock on death's door, expecting to be greeted by a blessing.

A man who dares to stand out and boldly follow God is a man who can expect to be overcome by the blessings of God. We are often led to believe that standing out, being laughed to scorn, persecuted, overlooked, misjudged and lied on are all bad things, but they are only bad to the flesh. The spirit of a man could care less because the spirit of a man is led by God and only cares for the things of God. As a matter of fact, the disciples of Christ counted it a blessing to be persecuted for His name's sake (see Acts 5:41). This means we, as believers, need to change our minds about persecution; that way, we will welcome it for the greater glory of God.

Please read and meditate on the scriptures below, and be sure to take up your cross and follow Christ. Don't worry about this world and the people therein; simply seek to follow God and your reward will be greater than any and everything this world could have possibly offered you. Remember, purity is for you too. A man who overcomes his flesh and the trappings of the world is a man God knows He can use mightily.

**Romans 8:17:** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

**Romans 12:1:** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

**Romans 12:2:** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Matthew 5:11:** Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

**Matthew 10:22:** And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

**1 Peter 4:14:** If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

**1 Corinthians 7:8-9:** I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-8:** For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.