

Integrity and Purity Middle and High School years

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We live in a world in which purity is something that is thought about more in regards to drinking water than to human sexuality. Our culture is constantly and continuously sending messages to all of us, but especially to our children and teenagers, that sexual purity is antiquated and out of touch with today's world.

The Bible, however, commands us to be pure, to be holy. This is not because God does not want us to live a full life, but just the opposite. We have abundant life (John 10:10) when we live in purity and we are also honoring God. The apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 7:1, "Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."

God created us as sexual beings and affirmed the goodness of sex when he told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and increase in number (Genesis 1:28). All of this, of course, has sexuality as part of God's plan and lived out in the way in which He designed it to be. Sin has altered what God created as good, and as sinful people we fall into the temptation to take what is good and make it something else.

Purity as a Faith Milestone is not a one-time event, but an everyday, pledge and promise made to God that we will live in chastity until marriage, and in fidelity within marriage.

Third seeks to support and equip parents as they educate and inspire their children to live a life pleasing to God and in accordance with His will. Student Ministry incorporates this message for our teenagers annually on Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings. Because purity is not something to which our world subscribes, it is also taught throughout the year as the scriptures we are studying bring it to the forefront.

It is of the utmost importance that purity be taught at home and modeled for children and teenagers; in this area it is often more "caught than taught."

Sexual purity is not about signing a card or wearing a ring, but rather about honoring God with one's body every day. As we teach and encourage our children and teenagers, they can look back to this time in their lives where God's Word and power enabled them to remain pure for their future spouse.

Resources:

How and When to Tell Your Kids About Sex: A Lifelong Approach to Shaping Your Child's Sexual Character by Brenna Jones and Stan Jones (NavPress)

What Your Child Needs to Know About Sex (and When): A Straight-Talking Guide for Parents by Dr. Fred Kaeser (Celestial Arts)

Sex and Dating: Questions You Wish You Had Answers To by Mindy Meier (IVP Books)

Sex, Lies and Hook-Ups: A Parent's Guide for Fighting Back (Help teens: develop personal identity, set boundaries, resist peer pressure, embrace abstinence and prepare for marriage and family) by Sally Badgley Raymond, Tammy Bryant and Anne Badgley (Heritage Community Service)

Passport2Purity by Dennis and Barbara Rainey (Family Life Publishing) – Book and CD set to discuss with your child

Raising a Pure Generation: Parent's Guide by Julie Hiramine (Generations of Virtue) – discusses manners, ethics and sexual purity

Closing the Window: Steps to Living Porn Free by Tim Chester (IVP Books)

<http://sexualintegrityinitiative.com/>

<http://fightthenewdrug.org/>