

Revive

A Love for Sexual Purity

I know all the things you do. I have seen your love, your faith, your service, and your patient endurance. And I can see your constant improvement in all these things. But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting... sexual sin. Revelation 2:19-20 NLT

How to maintain sexual purity

DISCUSSION: How has the world's view of sexual purity become more relaxed over time? How has that distorted your Biblical view of what it means to live with sexual purity?

1. Make a commitment to God's standard

How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. Psalm 119:9 NLT

God's word teaches...

Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex. Hebrews 13:4 The Message

DISCUSSION: How are you obeying God's word regarding sexual purity? Where are you not being obedient?

What if I am gay?

a. Celibacy

b. Marriage to an understanding spouse

DISCUSSION: Do you struggle with same sex attraction? Do you struggle with lust? What are your struggles with sexual purity?

2. Minimize your opportunities for sexual failure

Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak! Matthew 26:41 NLT

... bad company corrupts good character. 1 Corinthians 15:33 NLT

DISCUSSION: In what ways have you been putting yourself in setting yourself up to be tempted and/or disobedient to God?

3. Monitor your media intake

Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness... Matthew 6:22-23 NLT

I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar... Psalm 101:3 NLT

Run from anything that gives you evil thoughts but stay close to anything that makes you want to do right. 2 Timothy 2:22 LB

DISCUSSION: What media are you allowing to influence you? What movies are you seeing? What television are you watching? What music are you hearing? What books are you reading? How are these media, as well as others, having an influence on you?

DISCUSSION: In what way will you put safeguards in place in order to successfully manage your media intake?

4. Manage your mind

Temptation is the pull of our own evil thoughts and wishes. These... thoughts lead to evil actions... James 1:14-15 LB

... But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:13 NLT

DISCUSSION: How are you allowing your mind to get away from you? How will you manage your mind?

5. Magnify the potential consequences

Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity... Such sins have no place among God's people... You can be sure that no immoral, impure... person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God... Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do. Ephesians 5:3-7 NLT

DISCUSSION: Where in your life are you living short-sighted? What are some God-sized tasks in the area of purity in your life?

6. Meditate on the blessings of staying pure

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12 NLT

DISCUSSION: What are some of the physical benefits of staying pure? Mental? Emotional? Relational? Spiritual?

PRAYER PROJECT: Take 7-10 minutes to get alone and quiet before God. Talk to him about how you feel sexually? Be open with your feeling before Him? Are you struggling with some sort of sexual impurity? Talk to Him about it. Be open to hearing from Him.

[LEADERS: Encourage your group participants to be very mindful of the thoughts and feelings that move them in the direction of being more like Jesus. These are key elements of their spiritual transformation.]