

CHAPTER THREE

PURITY OF LIFE

Taking a stand on the moral absolutes of God's Word is not popular. But even though many people seek freedom from all moral responsibility, Christians must live by biblical values.

GOD'S STANDARDS

1. Using a dictionary, define *purity*.

2. What does God promise those who are pure in heart?

Psalms 24:3-5, Matthew 5:8

3. What are God's standards for our behavior?

Matthew 5:27-28

2 Corinthians 7:1

1 *Thessalonians 4:3-8*

1 *Peter 3:3-4*

4. How does God describe those who practice impurity?

Ephesians 4:18-19

THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL PURITY

5. From 1 Corinthians 6:13-20, list several reasons why we should avoid immorality.

Verse 13

Verse 15

Verses 16-17

Verse 18

Verse 19

Verse 20

6. From Ephesians 5:3-5, in which specific area of our lives is purity important?

7. The world's standards differ greatly from God's. From 1 John 2:15-16, what are foundations for the world's standards? List and define these.

FOUNDATION DEFINITION

8. What does Scripture say to the following excuses for wrong moral behavior?

a. "Since everyone does it, it must be all right." *Proverbs 14:12*

b. "I only need to discover if this is right for me."
Ecclesiastes 11:9

c. "As long as I don't hurt anybody, it's okay." *Leviticus 5:17*

d. "Nobody will ever find out that I did it." *Hebrews 4:13*

e. "I'll stop after this one time." *Galatians 6:7-8*

f. "I didn't really *do* anything—all I did was *think* it."
Matthew 5:28

THE PATH TO PURITY

9. What are the steps from temptation to sin? *James 1:14-15*

10. Read Genesis 3:6,8 and Joshua 7:21. How do these two passages compare? List the similarities.

GENESIS 3:6,8 JOSHUA 7:21

a. What physical sense was stimulated?

b. What feeling resulted?

c. What act resulted?

d. What was done with the evidence?

e. Do you think every act of sin follows this pattern? Why or why not?

11. What three important principles for living a life of purity are mentioned by Paul in 2 Timothy 2:22?

Try to forget the number 13. When you have forgotten it, check this box ✪. Can you do it? This is how some people try to avoid immorality—they think they can just make themselves not think about it.

It is impossible to eliminate a wrong thought from your mind unless you substitute something good in its place. Paul said that we are to "put off" the old nature and "put on" the new nature (Ephesians 4:22-24). This passage illustrates the principle of substitution. How would you relate Scripture memory and meditation to this principle?

12. What can we do to live a clean life pleasing to the Lord?
Psalm 51:10 _____
Proverbs 4:14-15 _____
Romans 13:14 _____
1 Peter 1:22 _____

13. Study Genesis 39:7-12 and 2 Samuel 11:1-4. Compare events in Joseph's and David's lives.

_____ **JOSEPH** _____ **DAVID**

- a. What were the surrounding circumstances?

- b. What were their respective attitudes?

- c. What were their resulting actions?

- d. Why do you think these two men responded in different ways to a similar situation?

**PERSONAL
 RELATIONSHIPS**

Several New Testament passages state the qualities of life of a person who is rightly related to others.

14. How should you treat the following people? *1 Timothy 5:1-2*

Older men _____
 Older women _____
 Younger men _____
 Younger women _____

Is there any relationship you have with someone that needs to be brought into conformity to these standards? If so, what should you do about it?

15. Read Titus 2:2-8 and record at least three qualities that should appear in the lives of the following four categories of people.

Older Men	Older Women	Younger Men	Younger Women

a. In which of these qualities would you like to see progress?

b. How can you go about doing this?

c. What qualities are important to you in someone of the opposite sex?

d. Do these differ from standards you have had previously? If so, how?

e. State at least two scriptural standards you have concerning your relationship with the opposite sex.

PERSPECTIVE ON MARRIAGE

16. Read Genesis 2:18-25.

a. Who originated marriage? _____

b. For what purpose was marriage instituted?

c. State the ideas of verse 24 in your own words.

17. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-15.

a. What principle does God set forth in this passage?

b. How does this apply to a Christian marriage?

c. What do you feel would be some of the resulting problems if this principle were violated in marriage?

18. What can you do if you are already married this way?
1 Corinthians 7:12-16

19. What possible reasons might there be for not marrying?
1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 25-35

20. Read Ephesians 5:21-33—a passage on Christian marriage.

a. What is God's desire for husbands?

b. In what ways can a husband fulfill God's desire for him?

c. What is God's desire for wives?

d. In what ways can a wife fulfill God's desire for her?

Remember These Points

Add a sentence or two to the following statements to summarize the most important things you learned from each section of this chapter.

God's Standard

God has definite standards for purity of thoughts, speech, and conduct.

The Importance of Personal Purity

The Scriptures give clear reasons for maintaining personal purity.

The Path to Purity

Application of scriptural principles leads to a pure life.

Personal Relationships

God wants us to have personal standards in our relationships with others.

Perspective on Marriage

The Scriptures reveal God's perspective on purity in marriage.
