

Purity and Self-control

I. Biblical definitions:

- A. Purity : freedom from defilement noun: hagnōtes = II Cor.6:6
words derived from adjectival: hagnōs = chaste, pure II Cor. 11:2/Phil.4:8/I Tim.5:22/Titus 2:5/James 3:17/I Pet.3:2/I John 3:3
another noun: hagneia = purity, chastity I Tim. 4:12/5:2
verb: hagnizo = to purify James 4:8/ I Pet.1:22/I John 3:3
- B. Self-control (temperance)
noun: egkrateia = self-control (especially continence) Acts 24:25/II Peter 1:6
verb: egkrateuomai = to exercise self-restraint (in diet and chastity), to contain [oneself] I Cor. 7:9/9:25
adjective: egkrates = "strong in a thing" (masterful), self-controlled (in appetite, etc.) Titus 1:8

II. The concept of defilement: ceremonial a type of the moral

- A. Contact with the ritually unclean transmits defilement: Lev. 5:3/Numbers 19:20/ Jude 23
- B. Various forms of defilement: idolatry: life dominating cravings (I Cor. 8:7); gluttony, drunkenness, excitement, covetousness
- C. Sexual immorality is specifically referred to as causing defilement:
Gen. 34:2, 5, 13, 27
Lev. 15:32/ 18: 6-24
Num. 5: 13, 14, 20, 27, 28, 29
I Chron. 5:1
Ezek. 18: 6, 11, 15/ 22:11/ 23:7
Rev.14:4
- D. Pure religion requires undefilement: James 1:27
1. Because appearing in the presence of God requires purity : Ps. 24: 3-4/ Matt. 5:8/Heb.12:14
2. Because it is an aspect of divine wisdom: James 3:17
3. Because the goal of Christianity is love out of a pure heart: I Tim.1:5/Tit.1:15
4. Because purity is an aspect of Christ-likeness: I John 3:3
5. Because Christ deserves and desires an undefiled bride: Eph.5:27

III. Inside and out II Cor. 7:1

- A. Lack of sexual self-restraint originates with the heart. II Pet.2:13-14/Matt.5:28/Prov.11:6/22:14/Eccl.7:26
1. The fear of God as a motivator: Prov.5:20-21/Gen.39:9/I Pet. 3:2
2. Intelligent self-interest as a motivator: Prov. 5: 8-14/6:32-35/Heb.12:16-17
3. The role of seduction: Prov. 23: 27-28/5:3/7: 8-12, 21
- B. Maintaining sexual purity and self-control:
1. God's provision of marriage: Heb.13:4/I Cor.7:1, 9/Prov. 5: 15-20/I Cor. 7: 2-5
2. Single men and women: I Cor. 7:1/I Tim.5:2/Titus 2:1-5/I Thes.4:3--8
3. Radical restraint: I Cor. 9:24-27/Jude 23
Separation from established temptations: Mark 9:42-47
a. Watch those eyes Job 31:1/Prov. 6:25
b. Watch those hands I Cor. 7:1/
c. Watch those feet Prov.5:8
d. Watch those friends (and relatives): 2 Sam. 13:1ff
e. Watch that mouth:gossip, jesting, profanity 16:6/
f. Watch those hands I Cor. 7:1