

December 12/13, 2009

Is Sexual Purity Possible and More Pleasurable Than Lust?

Christmas is a great time to talk about sexual purity because our glorious God promised He'd send a Savior through a sexually pure young woman.

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23; Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4-5

But Mary wasn't the only one who walked in sexual purity to birth our Savior, so did her husband Joseph.

Matthew 1:24-25

Their sexual purity made it possible for them to be used powerfully by a Holy God to birth His Holy Son.

Luke 1:26-37

Mary and Joseph found out that nothing is impossible for God, absolutely nothing. They held in their arms the proof of that. Great things happened through their faith, submission and sexual purity.

Luke 1:46-49

Their story reminds us that sexual purity is possible and so desirable if we truly want God's very best. Through the same Holy Spirit we can be sexually pure before marriage, while being married, when no longer married and even if we never marry.

Romans 8:6-14

Living Pure in a Sexually Impure Culture:

1) Receive Christ's loving forgiveness for any sexual sins you may have committed and commit to walk in purity.

Isaiah 1:18; Psalm 103:10-13; Hebrews 10:17-18; Ephesians 1:7

2) Tell yourself the truth. It's not my body but His, and His Spirit can give me the grace I need to walk in sexual purity.

1 Corinthians 6:19-21; Romans 6:8-14

3) Use your sexuality for God's created purposes:

Love and oneness in marriage

Genesis 2:22-25

Procreation in marriage

Genesis 1:28

Mutual satisfaction in marriage

Proverbs 5:15-21

4) Protect yourself and others from sexual temptation. *Proverbs 4:23*

Eye Gate: Movies, TV, Internet *Matthew 5:27-29*

Ear Gate: *Psalm 1:1-2*

Mind Gate: *Philippians 4:8*

5) Develop some purity partnerships where you are honest with each other about Satan's temptations.

1 John 1:5-9

6) Cherish your relationship with God and others so much that you refuse to compromise your sexual purity for momentary sexual gratification.

Psalm 119:11; Psalm 51:10; Luke 17:1-3; Galatians 2:20

Sexual purity is hard but possible and more pleasurable than sexual immorality and impurity.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Mary and Joseph's story inspire you? What do you think was most difficult for them?

2. What do you do to protect your heart and mind from sexually impure stimulus?

3. Who do you feel safe talking to about sexual temptations? How could we help our children live with purity in this critical area of their lives?