

# THE PURITY PRINCIPLE

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

October 9, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

## INTRODUCTION:

PURITY is of such high value. Especially in a world that is so body conscious, so sexually focused. Stacy and Sally. Prayed daily for them, prayed often with them. Purity covenant. Powerful force. Wonderful gift, high value on fidelity sexual purity, treating bodies as holy, no defile. No abuse. No harm.

## OPEN BIBLE TO 1 CORINTHIANS. Page 809.

1<sup>st</sup> Century Roman culture was focused on sex, the human body and sexuality. In Ephesus This has to be one of the oldest road signs on earth. Directions to a brothel.

Corinth didn't need signs, was in your face ... all you had to do was look up; the AcroCorinth.

***prostitution in Corinth was "religious act of worship." Corinth took pride in temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, which had 1,000 cult prostitutes. In the name of religion, men could indulge their fleshly appetites. The Greeks had a proverb about the city, which told of its moral decay: "It is not every man who can afford a journey to Corinth." Those who are worldly wise use the verb "to corinthianize" to describe an act of immorality. "Corinthian girl" was a synonym for a prostitute.***

1<sup>st</sup> century Roman culture ... equated legality with morality (section just after lawsuits) ... if it's legal it must be moral. Anything goes ... **vv. 12,13** QUOTING THEM. Huge mistake ... Paul COUNTERING. **"Everything is permissible" x2 ... "food for the stomach".** ... sexual expression is just like eating, nothing wrong with, just doing what I do, meeting a basic need for survival.

As long as it's legal ... Not a minor, not forced (consensual), not at work; it's ok to do whatever you want, with whomever you want.

You forgot married people (as long as I'm not married and they're not married) ... apparently not illegal.

**They were making a Huge mistake.** In the minds of those who equate morality with legality, almost anything goes, even extra-marital sex.

Morality not only a legal issue, Morality is a spiritual issue. How we treat our bodies and the bodies of others has a direct impact on Spiritual life ... keeps us from experience filling.

Structure Paul uses in writing; three times ... **Do you not know that ...**

**v. 9 Sexual immorality is an offense against God.**

**vv. 15 & 16 Sexual immorality is an offense against Jesus.**

**vv. 18-20 Sexual immorality is an offense against the Holy Spirit. Read 18-20**

God is not a puritan or a prude ... Sex is good, God's idea, but like everything else it is broken.

Body is sacred, God created it, but like everything else broken. Abuses against it.

The body made for the Lord, not for sexual immorality, not for self-indulgence.

No wonder we have missed the filling. We have failed to deal with sin. I want to be filled, want you filled.

Impossible to be filled with the Spirit and be engaged in sexual immorality.

Impossible to be filled when we are abusing the body (our bodies are sacred, for the Lord, v. 13)

Impossible to be filled with the Spirit and be controlled by the desires of the flesh.

Ill. Define a stronghold ... a place dominated by a particular characteristic. The Lord or something else.

Enemy gets a foothold (flesh) ... base of operations, used for further advance.

Strongholds / footholds ... that we allow to control us ... are different for men and women.

For men, sex ... Sex is a big deal to men (regardless of age) ... just watch a golf match on the golf channel.

Jesus, speaking to all men of all ages said ... purity begins in the mind.

**Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV84) "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."**

Can't help but notice ... but the problem comes with what we do with our minds.

That woman you are thinking about doesn't belong to you. Someone else's daughter, wife. Abusive.

Corrosive, destructive. Staggering hold on men.

III. Study conducted by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, noted that 56 percent of divorce cases involved "one party having an obsessive interest in pornographic websites," while 68 percent of divorce cases involve one spouse conducting an affair with someone they met over the internet.

III. FOCUS BOOK ... An Affair of the Mind

Stronghold, never going to experience filling. Yet it can only be broken by power of HS.

Can't be filled with the HS when you are filled with lust, acting out, abusing others for sake of pleasure.

For women, ... Body image / appearance is a big deal. Need to be noticed, to be loved, to be beautiful ...

"am I beautiful, do you delight" epidemic of Eating disorders. While not necess immoral, **HARMFUL.**

**1 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV84) <sup>3</sup>Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. <sup>4</sup>Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.**

Thank you for doing the best you can with what you've got. Beauty outside, neglecting beauty inside.

If my body is not perfect, then I'm defective. I'm not beautiful, not appealing?

To some the need to be noticed may lead to sexual immorality. For others may lead to abuse. But to

harm your body, starving, purging ... **ABUSIVE.** Self-destructive behavior. Body is a temple.

Data shows that about 40 percent of college-age women have experienced an eating disorder.

In the article "*The Skinny Sweep-stakes*", HARA Marano shares the testimony of 17-year-old Chloe:

Dieting made me feel I was in control of something. It was one thing I knew I could change on my own. I would diet and get positive feedback and feel really good. So I wouldn't eat for a few days at a time. ... You compare yourself to other people. Each of my friends was vying to be better than the other. I was in a restaurant with my boyfriend and a girl walked in who was really pretty and much thinner than me. I saw him glance at her. I went into the bathroom and cried. ... [Boys are] constantly comparing women to each other: 'That girl is really hot; she's so much hotter than her friends.' So we compete to be the hotter friend. Some days it makes you feel fat. On particularly bad days, I can look at children and think that when I'm older, that little 3-year-old girl is going to steal my husband.

III. Define stronghold ... anything we hang onto that is destroying our lives. Can't be filled with the HS when indulging, purging or harming ...

So what? Won't be filled with the Spirit if our lives are filled with impurity. RUN. FLEE.

III. Bill Bright ... spiritual breathing. ... Exhale what's toxic (confession); inhale what gives life (breath/Spirit). Otherwise you die of asphyxiation, hypoxia, suffocation.

**1 Cor. 6:11** Washed by the Spirit of our God.

**The Spirit cleanses us from sin, so we can be filled with His power and presence.**

Want to experience, break the stronghold? Lay it down, confess it, name it, repent ... change your mind.

When you feel the distance, when you feel empty ... ask the Spirit to cleanse you, fill you with breath.

CONCL: Today, this morning ... Invite God's Spirit to cleanse, pursue holiness. Purity & cleansing;