

All-Natural and Organic

Strengthening Your Purity – Introduction – Proverbs 7

Organic or non-organic? That is the question!

Have you ever sat back and considered what is left today that is pure? It is interesting that retailers have to tell us what products do not have all the added chemicals and hormones, which apple was made the old fashioned way and which apple was given some help. Of course, the retailers charge more for the organic even though they do not use added chemicals. Does that really make sense to charge more for less? It's confusing. How would you define purity?

To call something pure is to say that it is spotless, untainted or clean. What are some things that you would consider pure?

Purity is hard to come by. There are not too many things that could be called pure anymore. Whether it is impure food, impure materials, impure motives, or impure thoughts, impurity runs rampant through our culture. This is not a new problem. Scripture tells us that purity was attacked as early as the Garden of Eden in Genesis. Satan attacked the purity of Adam and Eve's heart and mind. He convinced them they were missing out on something. Satan tainted their innocence and introduced the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

God calls us to be pure and holy, set apart, and this is especially true in the area of sexual purity. Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 that we need to flee immorality and keep ourselves pure. Immoral acts and behavior are sins against the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Why is sexual purity so important?

The temptation to give in this area is everywhere. It may be ads on the television or pictures in the stores, but sexual purity is challenged at every corner. An average of 75% of unmarried "twenty-somethings" are sexually active and this figure is not too far off in the church. About half of church goers feel it is okay to be sexually active outside of marriage. One of the most sacred of institutions created by God is threatened because of impurity. What have you done to develop sexual purity?

There are many who just hope that they will be able to stay sexually moral, but to hope is not enough. Jack Hayford gives ten reasons why sexual sins are worse than any other kind. Read through these and consider the implications.

1. They stain the deepest part of a person's identity.
2. They exploit the deepest aspects of our emotion being.

"Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. "

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

“But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.”

Ephesians 5:3

3. They pollute the fountainhead of our highest creativity
4. They produce guilt that cripples our confidence in God’s forgiveness.
5. They expose us to the risk of begetting an unsupported child.
6. They compromise the foundation of life’s deepest relationship – marriage.
7. They increase the probability of multiplying the spread of disease.
8. They give place for appetites that can only beget further unnatural behavior.
9. They break trust with the whole body of Christ.
10. They assault the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

This is a pretty intense list of reasons. Which one sticks out to you more? Why?

Paul explains in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 that we need to run from youthful lusts and desires and stay far from sexual immorality. This is easier said than done. It seems like no matter where we go, we will run into sexual immorality. Sometimes I wonder if it would be better to pack up my things and head off into the mountains with my family where it is safe, but then reality sets in and I realize that it wouldn’t solve anything.

So instead, we can turn to the wisest man in the world for wisdom on how to strengthen our sexual purity. Proverbs 7 provides us with principles to develop and live by in strengthening and protecting our purity.

- Internalize the teaching of God’s Word.
- Learn life’s lessons.
- Commit to live in righteousness.
- Do not flirt with fire.
- Desire the light over the darkness.

These principles are being taught by a father to his son, but can be received by any who would want to strengthen their sexual purity. Remember, Paul tells us that there is not even to be a hint of immorality and impurity in us (Ephesians 5:3). The strengthening of our sexual purity is not an option to be considered, but a necessity to be embraced.

Is there a hint of impurity in your life? What is it?

Our world would have us give in to the pleasures and desires of sexual impurity. It seeks to convince us that there is no responsibility, but only pleasure and joy. Solomon explains otherwise. Those who do not strengthen their sexual purity will walk the path of the fool.

I do not want to be a fool and I imagine you feel the same, so let’s see what Proverbs says.

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?
