

Pursuing Purity

Matthew 5:27-30

Main Point:

As His disciple, Jesus calls you to be pure; therefore, as you prayerfully rely upon the Spirit of Christ, pursue purity by removing from your life all obstacles to purity.

1. As His disciples, Jesus calls you to be pure.
2. Jesus calls you to be inwardly pure.
3. Jesus calls you to promote the inward purity of others.
4. Jesus calls you to outward purity as well.
5. Pursue purity by removing from your life all outward obstacles to purity.
6. Pursue purity by removing from your life all inward obstacles to purity.
7. Prayerfully rely upon the Spirit of Christ for growth in purity.

Quotations and Cross-References

Exodus 20:8-10 ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. (NKJV)

Matthew Henry "If looking be lust, [then] they who dress and deck, and expose themselves, with design to be looked at and lusted after ... are no less guilty."

1 Timothy 2:9-10a ⁹ ... women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness ... (ESV)

Romans 14:13 ¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother's way. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 7:1-5 ¹ Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: *It is* good for a man not to touch a woman. ² Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. ³ Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. ⁵ Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (NKJV)

Ephesians 5:3 ³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints. (NKJV)

Mark Ross "What Jesus is saying is that however great the sacrifice, and however painful the solution, whatever it takes to win the battle against sin in your life, we should spare no effort in it."

Mark Ross "... A blind man or one with no hands could still commit adultery and lust."

Matthew 15:19 ¹⁹ "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. (NKJV)

James 1:14-15 ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (NKJV)

Romans 13:13-14 ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. (NKJV)

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 7-8 ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God ... ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit. (NKJV)