

***There is not one area of your life that is not affected by sexual purity or the lack of!**

How many of us have committed sexual impurity and been mad at God about it?

Sexual impurity has nothing to do with whether we have grown up in church or not

The truth is in some fashion or another we have all experienced it

And if we are honest that experience of impurity has made us miserable

The question still remains, Why are you are made at God?

We know that something is wrong and we do it anyway and expect that God should suspend the law of consequences for us (**begin to push books**)

And when He doesn't we blame Him because He let us down

That's like asking God to suspend the law of gravity (**push book off pulpit**)

The Choices That Ruin Us

The sound of that book hitting the floor is the picture of a lot of our lives

How many Christians hope God will guard us from the trouble while we make immoral choices that push us toward bigger and bigger immoralities?

For instance, **lets talk about premarital sex**

If we are honest in this room we have trouble taking the concept seriously

Most movies, TV shows, music, and commercials are focused on sex

And the truth is premarital sex is nothing like those things describe

It leaves us empty, unfulfilled, and calloused toward people

Premarital sex is all about me, its never about the other person

Its causes us to lose our interest in spiritual things

Sex itself becomes and idol to us

Notice what Jonah said while he was in the belly of a fish (Jonah 2:8) - *Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.*

An idol is something more than a statue – it's a God substitute

Its anything we value higher than God

And in order to cling to it we make a trade

Our sexual behavior reveals who or what rules our lives (Rom 1:18-29) -

Sexual impurity is idolatry because its puts our desires in the place of God

And anyone who turns from God for a God-substitute always suffer terrible lose

Why? Because we were made to find joy in God – not substitutes

They lose because they are swapping God's presence and future blessing for something that is immediately experience

The problem is that swapping never satisfies

I have done it and so have you

To one degree or another every sinner trades what they have, and could have, for a lie

Sometimes the lies get bigger and the stakes get higher (**Start pushing another book**)

We keep inching our lives toward destruction to try to fulfill some hormonal surge, some secret fantasy, we willingly trade our future

That's a terrible trade – it's a deal with the devil – and he never keeps his bargains

Everyday Christian men and women forfeit future happiness for the sake of temporary sexual stimulation

Like a drug addict we go from one fix to another

Trading the contentment of righteous living for the quick hits that always leave us empty – craving more

It's a forfeit of freedom

With every little thing that fuels our lust we bring ourselves closer to the edge where the gravity of consequences bring our life crashing down

What we will lose!?

What we will forfeit that could, would have been ours!?

If only!???????

For those of us who are here today, chocking on the consequences, feeling hopeless and defeated

Many of us have given up on purity

Others have never tried

We all need the foresight to see where today's choices will leave us tomorrow

Once lost some opportunities are never regained

The truth is you cant live in the "might-have-beens"

All we can do is admit their reality, and then, by God's grace, move on

To know what would have been no one is ever told

Enlightened Self-Interest

We always think we are acting in our own best interest when we follow the lust of our flesh

Yet it is not – not even close – It never is

In fact we just didn't hurt others – without intending to we acted against our own self-interest

What we did wasn't just wrong – It was stupid

Since we were young we have heard the list of reasons for walking in sexual purity

God commands purity and forbids impurity

Purity is right – Impurity is wrong

True? Absolutely

****Purity is always smart; impurity is always stupid

Not sometimes – not usually – ALWAYS

You are not an exception – There are no exceptions

A holy God made the universe in such a way that actions true to His character and laws derived from His character, are always rewarded

Actions that violate His character are always punished

He is not some mean God waiting for you to mess up and punish you – the punishment is built into to sin

Its like the law of gravity..... God has set it in place and it will not be revoked for anyone

God doesn't need to punish the porn addict – punishment is built in to it

Shame, degradation, warped personality

Notice how the bible describes those who have surrendered to their lust to live in immorality (Rom 1:27) – NASB - **26** *For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is [a]unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing [b]indecent acts and receiving in [c]their own persons the due penalty of their error.*

That's the way God's moral universe operates

We get to choose our own path

But with each path comes inevitable consequences

The roads of life are hazardous – but God loves us enough to post warning signs “don't commit adultery” and “no sex before marriage”

We don't have to obey

But we do have to live with the consequences

Purity is safe – Impurity is risky

Purity always helps – Impurity always hurts

Matt 7:24:27

*Jesus measures obedience not by its virtue, but by its wisdom

*He measures disobedience not by its wrongness, but by its foolishness

The man doomed himself

In the bible the obedient man isn't called “righteous”, he is called “wise”

Satan's greatest victories and our biggest defeats come when He gets us to ask, “should I choose what God commands me... or should I do what's best for me?”

The question, itself, shows how badly we are deceived

We won't choose God's ways until we believe that His ways are always best for us

Multiple Motivations

Shouldn't a Christians only motivations be loving God? No. The bible gives two others

1. Fear of God

2. Hope of reward

If we think these are unscriptural motives then we fail to grasp the central biblical doctrine

The fear of God is a profound respect for His holiness – and that includes a fear of the consequences of disobeying Him

I can argue for purity because God is by nature a Rewarder (Heb 11:6) - **6** *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him*

He will surely reward us for making choices that pleases Him

(Deut 30:19-20) – we can choose..... **19** *I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.*”

Cain – humanity’s first born, stood at a moral crossroad, God tried to reason with him (Gen 4:6-7)
6 The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted?[a] And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for[b] you, but you must rule over it.”

God was saying “choose my plan and you will find happiness”

Sure this is a fallen world but you have to say no to your sinful desires if you want to walk with God

If you reject His standards you will be surrendered to forces that will tear your life apart

The Smart and Stupid Argument

Does God really argue for sexual purity on the basis that it’s the smart choice while impurity is stupid?

Judge for yourself **(Pr 5:20-23)** -

Why avoid adultery?

Because God sees it and He will bring judgment on it

Even before judgment day “the cords of sin hold him fast”

The adulterer will be ensnared – he will die

He will be the victim of his own foolishness

In contrast the man who remains pure can “rejoice” and “be captivated” by his wife’s love

enjoying their sexual union **(Pr 5:18-19)**

Notice what else God says **(Pr 6:27-29)** – **(Pr 7:21-27)**

Addicts always think they can get away with it – **you will never change until you realize you cant get away with it**

I can never get away with sexual immorality – God wants me to remember that... for my sake

Make Your Choice

Shame will do nothing to deliver you – you have to start to think and choose differently

Do you really want to be like an ox led to slaughter? **(Let this preach.....!!!!!!)**

If so keep messin with the man next door or that woman at the office

Keep messin with that girl or boy at school

Keep watchin that filth called sitcoms and movies that throw sex at you as a toy to be played with!!!

The slaughter house is exactly where you are headed

But if you want something better, something more wonderful - choose purity!!!

Young people guard your virginity – not only for God’s glory but for your future happiness

Adults keep yourself to God’s command in this area....

Let the fear God keep you from ruining your life

***The fear of God shouldn’t scare us out of our wits – its should scare us into them (Pr 14:27)**

Heaven’s pay off is God’s reward

Don’t shipwreck your family, your life, your ministry!!!!

Those who have given into sexual temptation did not do it in their self-interest

They gave into what they thought was their best-interest

If they had paused they would have seen that running from that like running from a live grenade was really their best interest

They would have embraced purity like a drowning person grabs a life preserver

And how different would their lives be now?!!!!!!

When God asks us to pursue purity, He is not asking you to do what will deprive you of joy

In fact **you are being asked to do the very thing that will bring joy into your life**

To choose purity is to put yourself under God’s blessing

To choose impurity is to put yourself under God’s curse

Its your decision – you cast your vote with every choice

What’s your voting record?

The Most Strategic Battle

The sexual morality of today’s Christians has become almost indistinguishable from that of the non-Christians

Its impossible to discern where the world ends and the church begins

Our failure to follow the scripture in this area undermines our ability to accomplish what God has called us to

Why? Because **if we are just like the world, we have nothing to offer it**

An unholy world will never be won to Christ by an unholy church

Why is sexual purity such an important part of a rewarding life?

Why is premarital sex and extramarital sex so toxic to joy?

Why have so many tried and tried and tried...yet failed and failed and failed?

How can we avoid the lures and snares that lock us into bondage and tear away the abundant life?

With these questions in mind, its no overstatement, that **this is a life and death issue**

The time given to this sermon series could save you from disaster

It could set the course for which you – and your family – will always be grateful

***There is not one area of your life that is not affected by sexual purity or the lack of!**

Next week – “What’s The Big Deal About Sex?”