

Purity Part 8
Counting the Cost
Lk 15:11-32

Rationalizing and Repentance are enemies

Don't postpone confession in your life (Pr 28:13)
True repentance is removing temptation and changing the choices that expose us
You say "But I can't help the first look"
Sometimes that is true – but choosing to go to the beach full of women in bikinis then saying "but I can't help the first look" is rationalizing
Going to the movies and having to look at the floor is better than watching – but it's smarter to just leave or not have gone in the first place
Not only do we need to turn from impurity, but we need to keep ourselves from the things we have to turn from
If you're single and no longer a virgin you can commit yourself to secondary virginity – that means remaining sexually pure from this day forward (1 Jn 1:9)
Forgiveness doesn't mean there are no residual effects of past sin
Forgiveness means you can stop the damage today and enjoy the blessings of purity from now on
Don't be discouraged by what I have said about the consequences of sin
It's all true but it is also true that God is sovereign and gracious
He will bring beauty from ashes
No matter what we have done the moment we repent and embrace His forgiveness we can be right in the center of His will
(Lk 15:20) – He is a Father who loves his children no matter what
He will demonstrate His amazing grace to us in ways that will blow our minds
He can cleanse us and make us Holy vessels useful again (2 Tim 2:21)
Listen we forfeit certain things through sin – but we do not forfeit God's forgiving grace!

Seek Accountability

Be an active part of your local Bible-believing Christ-centered church (Heb 10:25)
Surround yourself with friends who raise the bar, not lower it (1 Cor 15:33)
Left alone you can not win the battle
Usually those who fall into sexual sin lack no-nonsense, bare-knuckle accountability
You might think it's easy for me because I am the pastor and can't know what you are going through
Listen the more visible Christian leaders become, the more they need accountability – and the less they usually get it
I need accountability, you need accountability
When you are pursuing secret sin the last thing you want to do is be with serious Christians
The time I need accountability the most is the time I will likely withdraw from it
Years ago when I was dealing with this in my life we developed a group of guys we call "911"
These guys agreed that at anytime for any reason they would be available to pray
If you were tempted all you had to do was pick up the phone and dial a number
We learned **it is much better to get immediate help, which prevents sin**, rather than having to report to the group the next week, "I blew it"
We embraced the fact that honesty about our sin was good – but through it we discovered that honesty about our temptation was even better!!!!
Who are your "911" friends?

Count The Cost

The consequences of premarital sex are serious and ongoing:

disappointing the Lord
losing your virginity
mental images that can plague you
greater possibility of extramarital sex
unwanted pregnancy
and disease
***Everyone needs to hear me and hear me good – **premarital sex is a sin, but pregnancy is not!!!!**
Children should never pay the price for an adult's sin

A Battle We Can Win

In the book "The Hobbit" no one was more invincible than Smaug, the mighty dragon
But unknown to Smaug there was a chink in his armor of his underbelly

That was all it took for Bard the hunter a skilled archer
Unaware of his weakness and underestimating his opponents, Smaug failed to protect himself
Bard's arrow pierced his heart and the lake people were saved
Its great story with a happy ending
But when it's a Christian felled by the evil one, the ending is tragic
Satan knows the chinks in our armor, and his aim is deadly
As I look at the church today I am deeply concerned at how careless and morally soft we have become
At times we are frighteningly weak in our exercise of sexual purity
We're terrified that we are so easily entertained by the things that offend God
And not only in our society but in our churches, our tolerance for impurity keeps expanding
Sin is sneaking under our radar and we are making ourselves defenseless
Men and women desensitized by immorality the church is calloused or withering in guilt feeling
like hypocrites and hating themselves for what we have done

Our God longs to forgive and restore us – delivering us from the road to death and setting us on a path of life

It's time to take a close look at our minds, words, and actions
The Greek warrior Achilles was the strongest among them and he appeared invincible
But one arrow to his heel proved otherwise
Think honestly today, is sexual impurity your Achilles heel?
Is it the chink in your armor?
If so this last 8 weeks just may save your life and family from ruin
It just may keep you from forfeiting God's blessing for your future

Listen if your life and family have been devastated because of this issue it's time to rejoice in His forgiving Grace

Don't lose hope – God is not finished with you!
Be patient, even if you are reaping consequences of past actions
Trust God that in time you will reap a vast reward for the purity and faith you exercise today
(Eph 6:8)

On Your Way In Safety

God doesn't want us to live paralyzed by the fear of a fall
In the context of resisting sexual temptation, the wise man says (Pr 3:21-26)
Walking daily with Christ, guarding our hearts and keeping the covenant with our eyes, then and only then
– we go our way “in safety” and “not be afraid”

One Final Question

Are you ready to commit – or recommit- yourself to a life of sexual purity?

Now is the time
Nothing is more fleeting than the moment of conviction
God made a universe in which righteousness is rewarded and unrighteousness is always punished
Purity is always smart; impurity is always stupid!
(Jer 17:10)

Let's live in such a way that we will one day hear our Lord say, “Well done, my good and faithful servant!”
Honor God by living in sexual purity
If you do you will experience His blessing and rewards not only today, tomorrow, and throughout
all of eternity

If we plant purity today we will reap a rich harvest

And by the grace of God we will look back on our lives not with regret, but with joyful gratitude!!!