

WHAT JESUS LOOKS FOR IN A CHURCH (Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2-3)

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson we looked at the church in Thyatira which became infected with moral compromise and sexual impurity and was confronted by Christ to repent. Therefore, before moving on to the next church in Sardis, I thought it would be good to share a practical lesson on how to maintain moral purity.

HOW TO LIVE A PURE LIFE IN A POLLUTED WORLD

1. COMMIT TO GOD'S SEXUAL STANDARD

How can a young person stay pure? By obeying Your Word.

Psalm 119: 9 (NLT)

God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.

1 Thessalonians 4: 3 (NLT)

2. CAPTURE YOUR THOUGHT LIFE

We fight to capture every thought until it acknowledges the authority of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10: 5 (Ph)

Temptation is the pull of evil thoughts...These evil thoughts lead to evil actions...

James 1: 14-15 (LB)

THE STEPS TO SEXUAL SIN (Colossians 3: 5)

Step #1: Greed I desire to have what God has forbidden.

Step #2: Evil Desire I fantasize in my mind what it would be like.

Step #3: Passion Emotional flirtations--saying, "I'm available."

Step #4: Impurity My will gives in & I look for an opportunity.

Step #5: Immorality I seize the opportunity & engage in sexual sin.

Be careful how you think, your life is shaped by your thoughts.

Proverbs 4: 23(NCV)

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Philippians 4: 8 (NLT)

I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman.

Job 31: 1 (NLT)

3. CONTROL MEDIA INTAKE

If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear... Psalm 66: 18

I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar. Psalm 101: 3 (NLT)

4. CIRCUMVENT THE DEVIL'S TEMPTATIONS

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy the devil He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5: 8 (NLT)

- Avoid situations where you are VULNERABLE to temptation.

Keep watching & praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Matthew 26: 41

- Choose FRIENDS CAREFULLY.

Bad company corrupts good morals. 1 Corinthians 15: 33

Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. 2 Timothy 2: 22 (NLT)

- Establish PROTECTIVE STANDARDS in relating to the opposite sex.

Be careful. If you're thinking, "Oh, I'd never behave like that"- let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin. 1 Cor. 10: 12 (LB)

- Keep the focus on improving your MARRIAGE.

...rejoice in the wife of your youth. Let her charms and tender embrace satisfy you. Let her love alone fill you with delight. Proverbs 5: 18-19 (LB)

Do not cheat each other of normal sexual relations...or you will expose yourselves to the obvious temptation of Satan. 1 Corinthians 7: 5 (Ph)

Keep DATING > Keep TALKING > Keep KISSING > Keep a high priority on SEXUAL INTIMACY > Keep your sexual feelings turned toward HOME

5. CALCULATE THE COST OF SEXUAL SIN

God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery. Hebrews 13: 4b (NLT)

A man who commits adultery doesn't have any sense. He is just destroying himself. Proverbs 6: 32 (GN)

How could I do this great evil, and sin against God? Genesis 39: 9