

The Battles You Fight for Purity

Psalm 119:9-6 **“How can a young man keep his way pure?”**

By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.
**I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.**

Taking the analogy given to us in 2 Timothy 2:4 *“No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.”*

A man whose aim is to seek God with his whole heart (Psalm 119) and to love God with His mind (Mark 12:29), will surely love what is pure, excellent and right (Phil 4:8). As his mind has been transformed and renewed (Romans 12:2), he will not become entangled in passions of the flesh. His heart is to delight in God’s statutes (Psalm 119).

Purity starts with the mind, flows to the heart, and then where we act and participate from there flows out of our overflow. It’s not about behavior it’s about loving what God loves and fleeing from all else.

Battle for the Mind-

What are images and or descriptive content I allow to enter my mind and brain? Where do I allow my day dreams to linger where they shouldn’t? What’s the movie or story my brain invents or perverts and re-watches or reads? Just like iCloud memory, what’s in my “stream”?

Conversations here linger on: Seems like many students claim they are not affected by media intake and will not act on things just because they saw it in a movie. They are deceived. Being a mature believer is knowing yourself well enough to admit your ditches and flee. A lot of the filth floating around has sadly been normalized for you, most students do not realize the battle for mental purity.

Battle for the Heart-

How much of my story/details of what’s going on/ feelings do I share with someone? What information do we discuss? Am I being full known in a way not fitting for two people who are married to know each other? Are we seeking emotive responses and connection so that we’ll feel tied and then in turn known and cared for? Am I trying to have a person not God fill my needs?

Conversations here linger on: What is “guarding my heart”? Can we pray together if we’re just dating? How do I know if my motive is “be real and transparent” or “let’s knit our hearts together so I feel deeply loved”? What’s appropriate to share in mixed company? What are the content boundaries of what I text to opposite gender? What are time boundaries with the opposite gender? Can guys and girls really be friends? How does friendship with a married person of opposite gender work out?

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Matthew 6:22-23 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

Proverbs 4:23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

Battle over Actions:

How do I dress, photograph myself, present the way God made me? Really, how am I helping or harming others in their purity journey? Do I see the way I put care into my physical appearance as a marker of integrity of my ministry? Consider too photos that present your actions or tell a story for you.

Conversations here linger on: How long should my shorts be? What makes a photo appropriate for Social Media? Can I post photos of me at a party, or what would cause confusion? Is modest really hottest? Can I wear “x” at the gym? What swimwear is appropriate? Is this ok to wear at school or in public places? Can I post “x” on social media?

Battle for Participation:

How far can I go with my boyfriend/girlfriend? Where do I allow people to touch me? How do I act and engage in course joking? How do I differentiate in time spent with mixed company—what do I deem appropriate hang out time, place and size for mixed gender group? How do I choose to engage my body in ‘stimulating’ activity’?

Conversations here linger on: Can you ride in a car with someone of the opposite gender if it’s just the two of you? Who can I hold hands with? When is kissing ok? What’s appropriate for Christian girls/guys, what are lines of friendship, when do I cross lines?

2 Corinthians 6:3 “We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.”

1 Corinthians 6:12-13 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.¹³ You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

*Ephesians 5:3 “But among you there must not be **even a hint** of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.*

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Ephesians 5:4 “Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.”