

CHASTITY THOUGHTS

Preview:

Why this topic is especially timely for me – because I’m just engaged!

Not focused on Confession or consideration of past sin (last night, we had a confession time), but making plans to move forward in light of submission. How do we craft a workable plan to live chastely? It’s not a onetime decision – it’s a cultivated lifestyle.

1 Corinthians 6:11 (But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.)

1 John 3:2-3 (And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure). **Read passage!**

What is Chastity? A 17th-century word with a 21st century application.

Chastity – Personal integrity, restraint and simplicity in design or expression. We’ll come back to this.

"Much of the modern resistance to chastity comes from men’s belief that they ‘own’ their bodies - those vast and perilous estates, pulsating with the energy that made the worlds, in which they find themselves without their consent and from which they are ejected at the pleasure of Another!" –C.S. Lewis. It’s pride.

3 Thoughts on Chastity (unpacking the definition)

Pursue personal integrity. Honesty to God, ourselves and others; truthfulness about our struggles (media, texting, etc.); obedience to the Word of God, structural soundness in our lives.

Psalm 15

Practice restraint to produce freedom. Restrain thoughts and actions to find freedom from selfish actions, thoughts, fixations on boys and on ourselves (bodies, images, attention, good opinions of us). Spiritual disciplines lead to freedom to focus on others and to serve God wholeheartedly.

How do we find power to restrain ourselves? **Romans 7:14-25** and **2 Corinthians 10:4-6**

Push toward simplicity. The Scripture gives us clear commands in some areas. **Titus 2:5** – Contrast between vain, silly fbook/texting issues and the biblical example. If young woman are

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doing these biblical things, are their core relationships likely to be weakened by complications (facebook drama, personal turmoil) or strengthened by simplicity? **2 Timothy 2:22-26**

Simplicity in clothing – modesty – **1 Peter 3:4**.

Also: Chastity obviously doesn't end when you get married!

If there's extra time:

I'm not a Greek scholar, but did I find this information to be helpful. Haha.

KJV translation of chastity in the Greek: "Hagnos, from hagnos, clean, innocent, modest, perfect: chaste, clean, pure."

2 Cor. 7:11 (to prove selves innocent from sin), **11:2**;

Phil. 4:8 (Whatever is true, whatever is honorable...whatever is pure);

1 Tim. 5:22 (Keep pure from hasty laying on of hands & sins of others);

Titus 2:5; **James 3:17** (Wisdom from above is pure); **1 Peter 3:2**;

Hagnos, from hagnos, sacred (physically pure, morally blameless or religious, sometimes consecrated, mostly holy (one, thing), saint – the main New Testament word for "holy." Separateness (some say is the paramount meaning). Romans 12:1-2: "holy, acceptable unto God."

Most often translated usages of "chastity" in English:

2 Corinthians 11:2 – Paul wants to present the Corinthian church as a pure bride to Christ.

Titus 2:5 – Young women are to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

1 Peter 3:2 – They may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

Chastity is so much more than not having sex before you marry. It's a lifestyle of purity and submission and restraint that continues into your marriage and the rest of your life!

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Hagos, an “awful” thing.