

The Vow of Purity
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Today we are going to talk about the purity issue and we know it's a problem because if you've been married more than 20 minutes you've had a fight about sex. I am going to give you some information, but please don't take notes on this....this is 15 ways you can destroy your marriage. I don't want to see any pens. Number 1 way to destroy your marriage; have an affair. Number 2 refuse to run from tempting situations. Number 3 look at lots of porn; remember this is how to destroy your marriage. Number 4 connect with old flames through online social networking and then convince yourself it's okay because you aren't actually doing anything wrong. Number 5 refuse to talk to your spouse about issues that make you angry; just bury them and let a huge pile build up so you can explode irrationally on them when they totally do not expect it. Number 6 have an affair. Number 7 make sure you spend lots of personal time with someone of the opposite sex that you're not married to and when confronted say, its business. Number 8 make innocent remarks to an attractive person of the opposite sex such as I wish I would have met you before I would have gotten married. Number 9 put an ad about yourself on an internet dating site even though you're married just to see what type of interest you could create. Number 10 compare your spouse with other people often and convince yourself that you didn't get God's best when you agreed to marry him or her. Number 11 have an affair. Number 12 take your cues about sexual morality from Hollywood and your friends rather than God's word. Number 13 begin to believe that your spouse is main mission on this planet should be to meet your needs and when they don't then justify trying to get your needs met somewhere else. Number 14 fantasize often as to what it would be like to be with another person other than your spouse. Number 15 is being willing to sell out years of marriage, the respect of your children and your character for an orgasm. I have some people always say you can't talk about sex in church because that's a private matter. If it was a private matter 50 percent of marriages wouldn't end in divorce. If it was a private matter half those kids over in our children's area wouldn't come from broken homes. If it was a private matter we wouldn't need to discuss it. Let me tell you it's discussed everywhere else. You can't drive to Dallas without seeing numerous billboards. You can't turn on the TV without seeing numerous commercials. You can't watch a movie and not see it so if the church remains quiet and we watch marriage after marriage after marriage deteriorate because of a lack of purity, the church better say something about it. Listen every spring I see these great families come and they have years invested in one another and they've got children who I love and they come who have walked outside the marriage bounds or they've gotten involved in something they shouldn't or they've gotten addicted to something and all of a sudden their marriage is over and their children are devastated and the church has got to speak up to help you put the tools in your life to get this thing fixed. So today if you have a happy marriage, you're absolutely going to love this sermon. If you've got a lousy marriage, you're going to hate the next 30 minutes. The next 30 minutes are going to be horrible for you. Today this sermon is not for non Christians. If you're a non Christian I'm so glad you're here but I'm not talking to you, I'm talking to the church today. I'm talking to people who say they've met Jesus because our goal in this church is to live like followers of

Jesus and yes we want to reach the irreligious, we want to reach people who don't have any association with church. We want to reach what we call dechurched people. Those are the people who grew up in church and said, had enough and now you're coming back. Hopefully here you're noticing something different. We're not here to judge you, we're not here to condemn you, we're here to talk about God and we're here to let you see what Jesus can do in your life if you're a non Christian. But once you step over that line and once you say you believe in Jesus, our goal is to make you a fully devoted follower and we know what that looks like. That's someone who knows God, that's someone who grows and has connections and accountability with other people. That's someone who serves inside the church and serves outside the church. That's what we're striving for. So when people ask you are we one of those new seeker churches the answer is no we're not and we're seeker friendly, we want lost people here and we don't judge them but once they get here we're going to challenge them. It's okay to come into this place and not be okay but it's not okay to stay there. Once you experience God, something is supposed to happen in your life and you're supposed to begin a journey, a transformation and so that's what we're calling for today for you to be on that journey to become the people that God wants you to be. We're not going to sell out the gospel to get a crowd. It would be so much easier if I could tell you today like the guy in Florida. Did you hear about this? A guy in Florida says that you can join his church by sending money every year and the more money you send every year; you get more money back at the end. He says if you send him a thousand dollars a year at the end of thirty years you'll make 50 million dollars. Tell me we couldn't build a church with that kind of theology? Or I could stand up here and smile and tell you how great it is to be a Christian and your paydays coming and all you have to do to have your best day ever is to accept Christ but that isn't true. Some of you are going to step across the line to accept Christ and bad things are going to happen and you're going to hurt and you're going to have trials and tribulations and problems and so I'm not telling you today when you accept Jesus all your problems go away. I'm not going to tell you that. I'm just telling you when you accept Jesus you have somebody to walk through it with you.

So we're going to preach the gospel today about our sexual purity. Today we want to bust some myths that the world is telling us about sex and the first myth we want to bust is this; it's just sex. I hear it all the time. It's not a big deal. It's just sex. Two people are willing, it doesn't hurt anybody, and it's just sex. Well let's go back to Genesis 1 and 2 and let's see what God says about that. In Genesis 1 and 2 God created the man; every part of him. He created the women; every part of her. That means he meant for our bodies to react the way they react and that includes sexually. It was his idea. Like I told you last week, he didn't come down out of heaven and into the garden and say oh my gosh; what are they doing?! Oh I can't believe that! Jesus, get the water hose. He did not do that. Sex is his idea. He created it. He created you guys to be visually turned on. I know you women think gosh you are all pigs. Oink! We were created that way. Let me ask you a question gentleman and I want you to be honest....today if I gave you a choice between seeing a beautiful sunset or your wife naked which would you choose? How many of you would like to see you wife naked? Hold your hand up. Oink oink! Any of you guys rather see a sunset? Any of you? If you want to raise your hand, we have a class starting on same sex attraction that we want to help you with that because it is natural for men to want to see women. That's the way God created us. He created us that way, he put that in us. We don't need to be ashamed of that. Alright now, let's turn it. All you ladies, same choice; beautiful sunset or your husband

in the nude in all his glory? How many of you women would like to see a sunset? You know what? Stop going to the gym guys because it doesn't matter. You're never going to pull your towel off and flash her and she go, uh huh! That's not the way their built and God did it on purpose. He wants that relationship but let me show you, he put it in a framework. We're his creation, he looked at us and he put us in the garden naked and we weren't ashamed and he said be fruitful and multiply. In the Song of Songs he says eat and drink your fill lovers. Sex is designed by God but in his creation he frames it. He says for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave on his wife. This is how God does it. He creates the man; he creates his mind, his heart, his hormones, his body and his shape. He creates the women and everything about her and he has this sex idea that's just this great idea that he put out there in the confines of marriage and this is the way it works. He's going to get to know her; he's going to grow in his affection for her outside of the physical. He's going to grow to know her mind, her heart and she's going to grow to know his mind and his heart and they are going to enter into a covenant with one another and that covenant God calls marriage and in Hebrews it literally means the intermingling of our souls. So we've got to know each other emotionally and spiritually and then we add that physical act and we're not just having sex, we're having sex with a person, a partner and all of the things involved, the emotional, the spiritual, the physical all come together and the act brings encouragement. It brings edification and energy. It brings life and that's what it was designed to do. For two souls to meet and to connect but you see creation did go the way God wanted. Man messed it up. They said God you really don't know what you're talking about. You have no idea how I'm going to be fulfilled. I'm going to be fulfilled by sleeping with as many people as possible. I'm going to sleep with people so my self esteem can be built up. I'm going to sleep with people so I feel good about myself. I'm going to do this over and over and over God because you don't know what you're talking about. We live in a generation, people in their twenty's now are sexually promiscuous as the 60's were. With STD's and AIDS and everything out there, our kids, our teenagers, our youth, our 20 year olds are getting worse and worse and worse and all they are doing is having sex and needing more sex to try to fulfill that void that is in their heart. That void that God put in for us to be intermingled with another person and so we just think we need sex with another person or maybe we need sex with a different type of person and it gets darker and darker as we get further and further away from what God designed and we think we can figure it out. In fact, if you go to the grocery store today, every magazine article is going to say something about it. Look at the magazines; the women's magazines...how to drive him crazy. 10 ways to make your man happy. It's even in Guns and Ammo, Field and Stream because we've been led to believe that if we can get our technique down, if we can just do it right then somehow we are going to be fulfilled. We are missing the central ingredient that God has. If I become a better lover I will have better sex and then I'll be satisfied. We grow more and more debased, darker and further away from what God intended. You can do this with anything. You can do it with food; food was meant for you to enjoy and live on and pretty soon you can take it to a dark place. You can do it with money. You can do it with looks. You can do it with anything. When you leave God's creation, God's rhythm, what God wants, your life goes in all kinds of directions so today I want you to understand you're never going to find sexual fulfillment until you do it right. It's not just sex. It's an intermingling of the souls. Let me tell you something, in your relationship when the physical act starts everything else ceases unless you're in the confines and the frame of marriage.

Let me tell you the second myth that we have. We go out there and we try to find the right one and we finally find the right one and we get married and we start believing we can relax. There are a lot of marriages that are in trouble today because you got married and said, whew! Like the bride on her wedding day; I never have to diet again; praise God! We just give up. We just start to relax; we start not doing the things we knew we were supposed to do. Some of you have neglected your marriage and let me tell you something, it's obvious. We can tell. You may be holding hands and smiling but if your marriage has been neglected you can tell. In a story in 2 Samuel chapter 11 David has had all these victories in his life but he reaches a point in his life that he thinks he can relax. In fact the bible tells us that in the time when the kings were supposed to be with their army's out in battle David stayed home. He relaxed. He had won a lot of victories, his kingdom wasn't being threatened; he just relaxed. You can tell when things are neglected. The last 3 to 4 months I have not taken care of my yard and boy you could have drove by and seen it was being neglected. I had hedges that had the spiky stuff growing out of them. It looked like an afro or something. I had weeds all in my flower bed, I had leaves with green grass coming up, and it looked horrible because I've neglected it. I usually like to take care of my yard but I've just didn't have time. Boy praise God because somebody came by last week and did it all. I was so happy. Even the crazy red tip bushes in the back yard that I shouldn't have put in. I have to get on my truck to trim those. I stand on my truck with an electric trimmer and I'm trying to trim these bushes, I fell off the truck twice last year. I had to just throw the trimmer so I didn't cut my fingers off. It is wonderful when this is done. When we neglect something you can see it and gentlemen some of you are neglecting your wives today and it's obvious. Let me give you some signs that you're neglecting her. When the things that are special to her are no longer special to you, you're neglecting her. When the things that she thinks are important you think are stupid, you're neglecting her. Don't you remember when you were dating and you would do all these things that she liked, like walk around and look at flowers. When I was in college all the girls gathered to watch General Hospital with Luke and Laura. Do you know where I was at 2 o'clock? Watching Luke and Laura. Do you know why? That's where the girls were. Whatever they think is special you think is special and some of you men stopped doing that. Some of you men don't pray with your wife and you don't pray for her unless you're praying for her to leave, you're neglecting her. Men some of you have stopped pursuing her sexually. Some of you women are saying, that's okay but you need to be aware of something, he's a man and he's pursuing something sexually. Do you hear me? He's a man. I just told you how men were built. They have sexual thoughts all the time and he's either pursuing you or pursuing something else or someone else. Women, you're neglecting your husband and it shows. If you spend more time talking about your husband to friends then you do your husband there's a problem. If you know more about your kids life than you do your husband's life that's a problem because I'll see people all the time who know all about their kids, know all their teachers, have their schedules memorized....what'd your husband do? Oh he's an engineer or something, isn't that right honey? What's an engineer do? I don't know...you drive a train? You don't know, you're neglecting your husband. You're neglecting your husband when he calls and has to work late and you're glad. When he goes out of town and you're glad he's not coming home, there's something wrong. Many of you have relaxed and when you start to relax and your needs aren't met and their needs aren't met and that leads us to the next myth.

The next myth is I need to look elsewhere. They're not meeting my needs. Back to the story of David, you need to understand something about it. We always talk about David and he walks out on his roof at night and he's walking there and all of a sudden he looks down and boom, there's Bathsheba and she's naked taking a bath and he's like wow! That's not what happened. I've heard it preached guys you got to be careful; you've got to look away. That's not what happened. Let me tell you what happened. In that culture just like today, women loved to take hot baths and showers so they put their bathtubs up on the roof and they would fill them up with water and all during the day the sun would heat that water and so in the evening they would climb into that bathtub and take that hot bath. When David walked out on his roof he knew his roof was the highest in the entire city and he went out there on purpose to look. Just like many of you do when you turn on your computer, oh I'm just checking the weather. I'm just trying to find out the score. You know what you're doing. Do you know that 70% of men last week looked at a pornographic website on the computer? Do you know what that does to your wife? Women bring beauty into a relationship. That's what God gives them to bring. We bring strength and they bring beauty. So when you're looking at this fictional character, you're telling your wife your beauty is not enough so I've got to look elsewhere. So what you're doing to them is simply ripping their soul apart. Well, you know it doesn't hurt anybody...are you kidding me? Do it in front of your wife then and see if it hurts anybody. Do you know what I read? America spends 12 billion dollars a year on pornography. Did you hear that number? That's \$380 a second. I have people tell me why would God let children go hungry? You know what...I think God's done a good job of financing all the world's need and if Americans could get over their obsession with masturbation maybe we can feed those kids. If America could stop looking at porn maybe we could do something more for those kids out there. Gentlemen where are you going to eat? Going to eat at Hooters? You go because of the food right? You're taking your kids to hooters and twin peaks even something called Bone Daddy's. Let me ask you a question...so you want your kids to look at other men's daughters? How about your daughter? I always used to joke with my wife about going to Hooters to eat. I thought it was so funny but she would always get mad. One day she looked at me and said, I'll tell you what, we can go to Hooters as long as you let Mandi and Misty work there. I wasn't near as funny as I thought I was. That isn't funny. Let me tell you about some of the hypocrites, you don't want anybody looking at your daughter like that. Ladies, you're not off the hook either because this Facebook thing, MySpace, these social networks are becoming a problem in our society. You ladies are getting online and connecting with old flames and old friends and you're justifying it and saying we're really not doing anything but let me tell you something, if you're emotionally connecting with anybody besides your husband, it is sin. If you are talking to another man about issues in your marriage, it is no different than your husband clicking on a porn site. It is sin and you can justify it all day long but it's wrong. Some of you need to shut it down because it's going to destroy your marriage. We seem to think we can look somewhere else and we can't. Some of us even convince ourselves that God's okay with this. God understands; God wants me to be happy. I married the wrong person and God understands so he wants me to be happy. Do you really think that's what God is saying? Do you really think God was up there, yeah David have sex with Bathsheba as long as you're happy. Do you think that's what God is telling you? Go ahead and look at porn as long as you're happy. Go ahead and keep talking to that man on Facebook as long as you're happy. Go ahead and continue in that affair as long as you're happy then God's okay. I've had people look at me and say, I've never been happier in my life. Wow, you have a strange concept of who God is because the bible

tells us that God will not be mocked. It says in Galatians 6:7, do not deceived God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature from that nature will reap destruction. The one who sows to please his spirit from the spirit will reap eternal life. I want you to hear me. Look what happened to David in our story. Bathsheba got pregnant and so David cooks up a plan to bring Bathsheba's husband home and he tries to lure him to have sex with his wife but he has so much integrity that he won't do it so David's caught. So he takes his good friend and gives him a death warrant, puts it in his hand and he takes it to the commander and David murders this man. It says after the time of mourning was over David brought her into his house the hero and she becomes his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord. Hear me today; God is not sitting up there being happy for you as long as you are happy. If you're in an affair right now and you think you're getting away with it, I want you to understand something, your world is about to crumble and fall apart because what is done in the darkness will be brought out in the light. Listen, there are consequences and that's the next myth that we want to address.

There won't be any consequences. God will forgive me and everything will be fine. God will forgive me. We have a whole culture that says God will forgive me and everything will be okay. God's a loving God. David, you preach all the time about grace and about mercy. You say that God forgives our sins. Yes he does but there are consequences to our sin. You see we seem to think that we can do what we want and then we can go to God and forgive me and it's all wiped away. In other words I can get that divorce and I can get with this person that I say I love and then everything's going to be alright because I'm going to ask God to forgive me. That's not how it works. Listen to what happened to David, this is what the Lord says out of your own household I'm going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all of Israel. He is saying, what you did in the dark, I'm going to bring out in the light and because you have done this calamity is going to be upon your house. You read the story of David, his family fell apart then David said to Nathan and you need to hear this, I have sinned against the Lord. He repented. Nathan replied and said, the Lord has taken away your sin, you're not going to die but because by doing this you've made the enemies of the Lord show utter contempt because the enemies of the Lord have mocked the Lord because of you the son born to you will die. David was forgiven. His son died. Why would God do this? What kind of God is this? Hey, God didn't do it. God didn't say sleep with Bathsheba and go be happy. God didn't do it, David did. And let me tell you something with divorce, with adultery, with pornographic addiction, it's the kids who suffer. It's the kids who will be destroyed. I see it all of the time. I see children and they're suffering. Their children are never the same and they do not grow up to be the person that God wanted them to be because you have traded and sold out your children for your pleasure or to feel special. I see kids all the time that suffer because the father can't control himself. That's a weak, weak man. I see children suffer because a single mom puts more emphasis on single than she does mom. I want you to hear me, God forgives but there are consequences to your sexual sins. Listen, your children are at stake.

We want to lead to one more myth because you see when I talk like this, I know many of you I'm describing your past life. I'm describing the things you've done already. I'm describing how you lived

and Satan loves to come to you right now and make you feel guilty about those things. Some of you are thinking, you're right; I'm such a bad person and that's not why I'm telling you that today. I'm not telling you that today to make you feel guilty and overwhelmed. If that's in your past God leaves it in your past. In fact some of you believe the myth that God is through with you but he's not. Our story goes on. After David had a porn problem, after David committed adultery, after David committed murder God said David, you're a man after my own heart. Because God is never finished with us. God never throws us away. Yes, there are consequences and David suffered those consequences but God wrapped his arms around him and loved him through it and that's what he wants to do with you today. David was broken over his sin. In Psalms 51 this song was written right after his sin. It says, have mercy on me O' God. According to your unfailing love, according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions, wash away my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. David didn't just look at God and say, okay God I'm sorry. Okay God just deal with it. He was broken and God said you're a man after my own heart. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart. O' God you will not despise it. This is who I want to hear today. Those of you, who are in the middle of this mess, get out. I have seen marriages come together. There are some marriages in this room that have gone through affairs and they are stronger today than they've ever been. They've gone through affairs and they've stayed married and they've done incredible things and God is not through. I've seen people deliver through a porn addiction, people who've walked away from it and have not been lured back. I've seen people who have just struggled and God has set them free. You may be sitting there today and this is the one I worry about, you say I look at porn and I don't feel guilty. I'm in an affair and I don't feel guilty. Let me tell you something, there is a reason you don't feel guilty. It's because you don't know Jesus. I'm sorry but I can never back away from the truth of the word. I'm not telling you that, the word of God says you cannot continue in sin and you cannot be content in a sinful lifestyle if you're a child of God so my prayer for you today is if you feel nothing about the sexual sin in your life, I pray that God will break your heart and you will meet Jesus for the first time. Those of you who God's working on your heart right now, this church needs to see men and women live out their marriage commitment, live out their vows and love God. I'm so tired of watching marriages fall apart and children decimated by the destruction. I'm so tired of watching kids grow up insecure because their parents aren't together. I'm so tired of watching families destroy each other because of sin. Today God can set you free. A broken a contrite heart; that's what God is looking for today. Will you bow with me?