



DATE	March 5, 2017
SPEAKER	Paul Clark
TITLE	Sexual Purity in a Sex-Crazed World
SERIES	There's a lot of relationship advice out there. So what's God's prescription for healthy relationships? Let's take a closer look at the book of Ephesians to learn more about God's plan to help our relationships thrive.

Introduction: In today's message we looked at what God's Word says about sexual purity.

1. Which most accurately describes your reaction to today's sermon?
 - a. That was a waste of time it doesn't apply to me.
 - b. This is really uncomfortable, I hate this subject.
 - c. It's about time _____ heard this!
 - d. This topic is convicting. I can it apply to many areas of my life that don't even involve sex.
 - e. None of the above. (Feel free to tell us what you think.)

2. Pastor Paul said sexual purity creates trust, which is an essential glue in any healthy relationship. Discuss this idea in your group. What are the different ways you've seen trust both built and destroyed in relationships?

3. As a group, read the following scripture passages.

- *Mark 7:21-23*
- *Colossians 3:5-6*
- *1 Corinthians 6:18*

The world tells us our intimate relationships are only between consenting adults. How does all that change when we recognize God's presence in our lives? What other thoughts do these verses bring to mind?

4. Pastor Paul identified the following standards for sexual purity. What are your thoughts about each one? What are some practical ways to live them out?

- Sexual immorality begins with lustful attitudes and is rooted in the darkness within us.
- Our bodies were not meant for sexual immorality, but for serving the Lord.
- God's will is that every Christian be sexually pure in our thoughts and our behaviors.
- It is holy and good to completely avoid sexual immorality.

5. Read *Ephesians 5:1-10*. Pastor Paul said to win the battle we need a sanctified mind and sanctified will. What does this mean to you. What do you think it looks like in the life of a Christ-follower?

6. Read Romans 12:1-2. Pastor Paul said renewing your mind involves "thoughtfully taking in God's Word, dwelling on it, pondering its meaning and exploring its implication for your life." What is it about

modern life that makes this difficult? As you consider implementing this in your own life, what might it require?

7. In talking about the battleground of our exterior life, Pastor Paul listed these ideas to avoid temptation. What are your thoughts about them? Where do you struggle the most? Where have you found success?

- Limiting exposure
- Protecting what you can
- Identifying triggers and blind spots
- Making decisions ahead of time
- Being rested and emotionally healthy

8. In achieving a single-minded will, Pastor Paul said it means...

- We orient our life around God.
- We embrace single-mindedness.
- We exercise our will by making small, right decisions.

Which ones resonate with you? Explain why.

Conclusion: As a group, pray for the renewing of your minds and God's strength as you strive to honor him in sexual purity.