

Pure Passion

Proverbs 10:9 HCSB The one who lives with integrity lives securely, but whoever perverts his ways will be found out.

Introduction: (Proverbs 11:3; 10:9; James 1:8)

Those who follow the Master as His disciples are referred to in Hebrew as the “talmidim”. A talmid, a disciple of Jesus, though not perfect, should be committed to following a path of spiritual, emotional and physical purity, including sexual integrity.

Integrity means to be whole, undivided, or void of hypocrisy. Integrity is a type of code of honor that can guide a person through the myriad ethical dilemmas that they will face from day to day.

- **Proverbs 11:3 HCSB** The integrity of the upright guides them, but the perversity of the treacherous destroys them.

Sexual integrity means to consistently live according to the highest moral sexual standards. It means to guard one’s mind, will, and emotions from sexual impurity. Sexual integrity brings with it a form of security.

- **Proverbs 10:9 HCSB** The one who lives with integrity lives securely, but whoever perverts his ways will be found out.

Sexual integrity means to be the same in the dark as you are in the light. It means to be the same when you are alone or with others, in private with your lover or in public with them. It means to possess a single-minded pursuit of the Messiah and to devote ones’ self to “working out our salvation” with fear and trembling.

James says

- **James 1:8 HCSB** An indecisive man is unstable in all his ways.

In our lust-driven world, sexual integrity is very difficult to maintain. It’s going to take a lot of will-power. You are going to need to totally commit yourself to the process and stick to it every single day, or even every hour of each day.

Before offering some steps to help you in your pursuit of a pure passion, let me share with you God’s plan for sexual intimacy.

God’s plan for sexual intimacy (Genesis 2:24)

Turn if you will to:

- **Genesis 2:24 HCSB** This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

This short passage shows three steps:

1. A man and a woman commit to the establishment of a separate family from their parents. *Leaves his father and mother*
2. The couple commits to a lasting bond. *Bonds with his wife*
3. The sexual relationship begins AFTER the bonding takes place. *Bonds...and they become one flesh.*

It’s important to note that these principles were upheld in the New Covenant as well.

- **Matthew 19:4-6 HCSB** "Haven't you read," He replied, "that He who created them in the beginning made them male and female, (5) and He also said: **For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?** (6) So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate."

When God chooses to reiterate something in both Covenants, we’d best pay attention. I also want you to see the result of following God’s plan.

- **Genesis 2:25 HCSB** Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

The sexual and emotional intimacy of their marriage was open and vulnerable, with moral purity existing between Adam, Eve, and God.

Young people, there is a distinct difference between lust and love.

Lust is:	Love is:
Temporary	Enduring
Sudden	Gradual
Selfish	Serving
Untrustworthy	Honest and open
Impatient	Patient
Uncontrolled	Disciplined
Shallow	Deep
Based on fantasy	Based on reality
Emotionally driven	Devotionally driven
Driven by passion	Driven by the will
Focused on externals	Focused on character
Set on finding happiness	Set on giving joy
Eager to get	Eager to give

With Paul I urge you to:

- [Colossians 3:5 HCSB](#) ... put to death whatever in you is worldly: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.

Nine steps (Psalm 51:10)

The Psalmist wrote:

- [Psalms 51:10 HCSB](#) God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Yet, there is a role that we have to play in this process. We can't just sit around waiting to be "zapped" with holiness. Using the acronym INTEGRITY, the following are some steps that I would suggest to you:

Invite others to work on sexual integrity with you. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Titus 2:7; Hebrews 10:24)

- [Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 HCSB](#) Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. (10) For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up.
- [Titus 2:7 HCSB](#) about everything. Set an example of good works yourself, with integrity and dignity in your teaching.
- [Hebrews 10:24 HCSB](#) And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works,

Never put yourself or your loved one in a tempting situation. (Romans 6:13; Ephesians 4:27)

- [Romans 6:13 HCSB](#) And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.
- [Ephesians 4:27 HCSB](#) and don't give the Devil an opportunity.

Trust God to meet your need for love in the future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

- [Jeremiah 29:11 HCSB](#) For I know the plans I have for you"--*this is* the LORD's declaration--"plans for *your* welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Remember, God isn't against sex. He invented it and gave it to us as His very first command (Genesis 1:28)! If you don't have the gift of celibacy, then God has just the perfect person for you – if you will only patiently wait for His good and perfect will (Romans 12:2).

Enjoy others – don't use others. (Matthew 7:12; Romans 12:9-10)

- **Matthew 7:12 HCSB** Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them--this is the Law and the Prophets.
- **Romans 12:9-10 HCSB** Love must be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. (10) Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Give yourself only to a sexually pure relationship. (Psalm 101:6; 1 Peter 1:22)

- **Psalms 101:6 HCSB** My eyes favor the faithful of the land so that they may sit down with me. The one who follows the way of integrity may serve me.
- **1 Peter 1:22 HCSB** By obedience to the truth, having purified yourselves for sincere love of the brothers, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

Refuse to ever justify or excuse sexual impurity in any form. (Romans 6:1-2; Ephesians 5:3)

- **Romans 6:1-2 HCSB** What should we say then? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may multiply? (2) Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
- **Ephesians 5:3 HCSB** But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you, as is proper for saints.

Isolate yourself from tempting people. (1 Corinthians 15:33; Psalm 101:4; Proverbs 1:10, 15)

- **1 Corinthians 15:33 HCSB** Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."
- **Psalms 101:4 HCSB** A devious heart will be far from me; I will not be involved with evil.
- **Proverbs 1:10 HCSB** My son, if sinners entice you, don't be persuaded.
- **Proverbs 1:15 HCSB** my son, don't travel that road with them or set foot on their path,

Transform your mind through the Word of God. (Romans 12:2; Psalm 119:9-11)

- **Romans 12:2 HCSB** Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.
- **Psalms 119:9-11 HCSB** How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping Your word. (10) I have sought You with all my heart; don't let me wander from Your commands. (11) I have treasured Your word in my heart so that I may not sin against You.

Yield your body to Christ. (John 15:5; Romans 12:21)

- **John 15:5 HCSB** "I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me.
- **Romans 12:21 HCSB** Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.