

A Covenant of Purity

by
James V. Garrett

1022 Masters Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805
jgarrett1958@hotmail.com

A Project
Presented to Dr. Eugene S. Gibbs
Ashland Theological Seminary
In partial fulfillment of the requirements
For the class of CE 501- Educational Ministry

June 2, 2004

Write a lesson plan for teaching youth about a contemporary issue- Sexual purity

It is my goal to present a well-thought out plan to teach teenagers regarding the topic of sexual purity. There are certain core beliefs that are relevant to this particular series of teachings. They are:

- 1) All teaching shall be Biblically-based
- 2) All teaching shall be High-school teen oriented
- 3) All teaching shall promote godliness and righteousness for a positive aspect
- 4) This particular series of teaching will be with the knowledge of the parents and will allow the parents to listen in (but not verbally participate.)
- 5) This series of teaching comes with a final teaching that will include the youth and parent(s) who will come together in a banquet setting for:
 - a) Sound Biblical teaching regarding sexual purity
 - b) Food
 - c) The signing of a covenant between the youth and his/her parent(s) regarding a commitment to sexual purity
- 6) This series should conclude with a Sunday Church service in which the church acknowledges the commitment of her youth toward sexual purity and concluding in church-wide prayer for the completion of such.

Pure on Purpose (Part 1)

Proper Perspective of Personal Priorities

Ecclesiastes 3:1- "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:"

There is an order for everything, and there is a corresponding event that follows when we pursue that proper order.

Just as priorities must be followed when one is engaged in any other activity, so they must be engaged when living life if that life is to be lived to its fullest. Just as an athlete will not simply go and run a race without first warming up and stretching out; just as that is a priority, so are the following priorities that each of us must follow in order to live a full life.

1. Personal Relationship with God

- A. God created man, had fellowship with him, and cared for him as a friend- God established the personal relationship between man and God as the first priority-
Genesis 1:26-27- "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

1. It is important to note that God created man in His own image- not necessarily that we look like God looks, but instead as spirit beings.
 2. God breathed us in His image for the purpose of having fellowship with us and us with Him. Notice the order of creation and that it relates to intents and purposes. God created us to fellowship with Him. This is a first priority.
- B. No other creature has been granted the depth of relationship such as has been shown to man.
Genesis 1:27- "the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."
- C. God has given so much provision for development of this personal relationship.
1. Initially, God communicated with man on a fellowship basis
 2. God established a system of personal worship- the Sacrifice
 3. God provided the written Word- initially the 10 Commandments and eventually the entire Bible.
 4. God has established prayer as a means of verbal fellowship between God and man.
- D. Our first priority must be our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
Family Relationship
- II. Our second priority must be that relationship that takes place within a family.
- A. God established the family as the second of our priorities in Genesis 2:23-24- "The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."
For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."
The family is not to be taken lightly!!!!
- B. The Bible gives us some role-models for the church: pastors and deacons- and in 1 Timothy 3:1-13, qualifications are listed for each. In particular are verses 2, 4, 12.

1 Timothy 3:1-13- Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.

They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus."

- C. Fathers are shown in the Scriptures to be the priests of their homes- A Spiritual Responsibility- To be walked in carefully in the presence of the Lord.
- D. Family relationships are to be built up, not broken down.
 - 1. Children are to honor their parents.

Ephesians 6:1-3- "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
"Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise--
"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."
 - 2. Parents are to avoid building up anxiety among their children.

Ephesians 6:4- "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

3. Family members should be a support to one another
 - a. By lifting one another up when someone is critical (often behind the back)
 - b. By speaking words of encouragement to one another
 - c. By helping one another.
4. The prefix, "step-" as in stepmother or stepfather does not negate these Biblical admonitions for respect and obedience

- III. The church is later shown to be a place of priority following only 1) personal relationship and 2) family relationship
- A. God often compared the relationship between Himself and the church as that of family
 - B. The church is a place of corporate worship
 - C. The church is a place of fellowship among the brethren
 - D. The church is a place of community edification
 1. God can speak to several at once
 2. Problems can be dealt with in wisdom and guidance
 3. Judgement and discernment are aided by 'wisdom in a multitude of counsel.'
- IV. There Are Other Priorities In Our Lives. These must be discerned and prioritized
- A. School
 - B. Friends
 - C. Goals
 - D. Etc.

Conclusion: As we align our lives with the priorities that God has set before us, we assure ourselves of success, blessing, and His presence. As we embark on a journey of holiness and purity, let each of us be conscious to keep our priorities in order. Remember, when the pattern is right, God's glory will fall and His blessings will abound.

Pure On Purpose- 2 Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13- "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away."

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1. Biblical usage of the word 'love'

A. Agape (agapeo)

Mark 12:30-33 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself There is none other commandment greater than these.

And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

1. Godly Love

2. A love that gives of itself without expecting anything in return.

3. This is a love that gives, without concern for getting

4. This love says, "I love you." Without any requirements or debts.

B. Phileo- Hebrews 13: 1 - "Keep on loving each other as brothers."

1. Brotherly love- We get the name Philadelphia from this word- City of brotherly love

2. A love for one another that is caring and sharing as a friend- (note the word 'sharing')

3. Also used in the Bible for 'loving to do something'

4. Can be used like, "I love you and you love me so lets help each other."
- C. Eros- Actually not used in the Bible but was used in Biblical times and was well understood by the people of that time.
1. Physical love- touching, holding, caressing, sharing
 2. Sexual love- with all the physical contact between a husband and wife in a time of intimacy
 3. Can be used like, "I love you for what you do for me and how you make me feel."
- D. Theleo- Mark 12:38- "As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces... "
1. A preference to, a delight in, enjoyment in
 2. Can be used like "I love this book" or "I love to skate."

II. Biblical types of love in the 20th century

- A. Ground rules for discussion
1. While certain types of natural truth may be 'ever-evolving,' Biblical truth is far beyond that. Biblical truth is also Biblical principle, and what was in history a Biblical principle necessary for that time in history is also a Biblical principle for this time in history.
 2. The following statements are based on Biblical principles.
- B. Godly love must come from each of us in order to fully function as a believer.
1. We must love the unlovable
 2. We must love others and not have to expect anything back.
- C. Brotherly love
1. We all have this kind of love but we must allow its encompassment to become larger- Don't just be friends with your friends, make new friends.

2. Your relationship with your friend will later become a relationship with a dating partner, which will later become a relationship with your mate,

D. Physical love- As we establish dating relationships, touch will be involved.

1. You enjoy holding each other's hand.
2. You enjoy putting your arms around one another.
3. Kissing may become involved. However, realize that a kiss may (and probably will) become more than a "touch." It can become a further physical stimulation (seeking for deeper sensations and fulfillment.) A good goal might be for you to refrain from kissing until marriage.
4. You just basically 'feel good' touching one another.
5. Sexual love is a very intimate and a very beautiful relationship between two married partners. ---God has given His 'seal of approval' for the marriage relationship in regard to sex. Hebrews 13:4- 'Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.'

III. Getting things in order- Love (in all types) many times must be learned.

- A. Just as we have priorities for living, we must also maintain priorities for loving.
- B. To have a true and honest relationship with a person, our priorities must be as follows:
 1. Godly love- You must love them with the love of God and not expect anything in return.
 2. Brotherly love- Next comes being friends and buddies sharing with one another.
 3. Physical love- Last comes a physical love (not sex!!!)- know that it's okay to touch one another and to hug one another in a Godly manner.

- C. Many relationships have not begun in this order and have turned out all right but there is usually a time of introspection and a re-ordering of priorities when this happens.
- D. The proper way to get things in order
 - 1. Repent of your ways- repent means to do a 180 degree turn with corresponding movement away from an improper attitude or action after experiencing a Godly sorrow.
 - 2. Pray for God's help to properly align your priorities.
 - 3. Do it. (Faith is not faith until it grows a set of feet.)

Pure on Purpose- Part 3 God's Plan for Sex

- I. Biblical Understanding and intentions of sex
 - A. Definitions of sex
 - 1. Genesis 2:23-24- "The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman, ' for she was taken out of man."
For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."
 - 2. Biblically- The act of marriage
 - B. The act of marriage- To populate or enjoy?
 - 1. Scientifically- When all conditions are met (some beyond one's control,) the act of marriage often produces offspring. God made us this way.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 7:1-5- "Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry.
But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.
The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.
The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.

Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."

- C. God's blessings on sex-
Hebrews 13:4- "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

II. Warnings against sexual promiscuity

- A. Sexual perversion- Sodom and Gomorrhah
- B. Extra-marital sex

- 1. Fornication- 1 Corinthians 6:15-19- "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."
But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.
Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;"
- 2. Adultery- Exodus 20:14- "You shall not commit adultery."

III. Petting

- A. Petting is a stepping stone to sex (foreplay)
- B. How far is too far?
 - 1. Guidelines for touching- Questions to ask yourself
 - a. Does the touch excite me physically?
 - b. Does the touch make me want to go further?
 - c. Do I feel an uncleanness before the Lord when I touch or when I am touched like this?

2. Definite boundaries
 - a. Sex
 - b. Touching of genitals
 - c. Touching of breasts
 - d. Unbuttoning or unzipping to expose such previously mentioned areas
 - e. Placing hands on buns
3. Highly questionable boundaries
 - a. Crossing legs over one another's
 - b. French kissing
 - c. Hickeys on the neck
 - d. Manner of dress on dates

IV. Blessings of Virginity

- A. 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 - "Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am."
But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion."
- B. You are a temple of the Holy Ghost.

Pure on Purpose (Part 4) **Dating Relationships**

Colossians 3:1-3- "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."

I. Reasons For Dating

- A. Peer Pressure- Everybody else is doing it.
 1. Motive is wrong to start off with
 2. Will probably lead to further involvement (sex, etc.)

3. May be a leading cause of emotional scars for those who may have trouble finding a date

B. Social Development

1. Remember- Previous societies did not have 'dating rituals'
2. Pros:
 - a. Relationship with the opposite sex is learned on a somewhat more intimate level
 - b. Proper attitude toward God in dealing with the opposite sex in a 'non-married' circumstance can be experienced.
3. Cons:
 - a. May be emotionally damaging to the ones who are not seen as 'date-able'
 - b. May allow our spiritual immaturity to shine by shifting our priorities away from personal relationship with God to dating relationship to partner

C. Selection of mate

1. It is a relatively recent thing for individuals to be able to select their own mates
 - a. Your mate will probably be someone whom you date
 - b. How you treat your date will be a stepping-stone to how you treat your mate
 - c. Not everyone is going to date - God calls some People to remain unmarried.
1 Corinthians 7:8- "Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am."
 - d. Do not date purely with the intention of mate selection- it's alright to date just to have a good time or even to date a friend just for the benefit of a friendly date.
 - e. **DO NOT EVEN TOY WITH THE IDEA OF DATING A NON-CHRISTIAN.**

II. Prelude To Dating (How To Get A Date)

A. Proper attitude

1. This should be reflected in all avenues of your life, not just when searching for a date- If you put on a facade just for your date, It will soon fade or slip.
2. It should convey proper priorities including your spiritual as well as all others.
3. You should be able to show your date a pleasant evening- DO NOT USE THEM.
1 Peter 5:5b- "... All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"

B. Good manners

1. Courtesy should be maintained at all times.
2. Christian beliefs should be exemplified.

C. Good hygiene- Do everything possible to look as good as possible

1. Take a bath
2. Use deodorant
3. Use some nice cologne (sparingly)
4. Brush teeth and use mouthwash- carry breath mints
5. Wear nice clean clothes (Modest, decent and in order)
1 Timothy 2:9- "I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes,"
6. Make your shoes look nice
7. Spend a little time in front of the mirror with hair and make-up
8. Smile

D. Proper dress

1. Maintain the following attitude- you are trying to look nice and pleasant-not to entice someone to your body-
1 Corinthians 3:16- "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"
2. Modesty- 1 Timothy 2:9- "I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes,"
 - a. Refrain from tight clothing that would bring attention to particular parts of the body (i.e. lower abdomen, chest, etc.)
 - b. Refrain from too little clothing that would tend to show certain parts of the body or would allure people to look toward those certain parts of the body

E. Proper date

1. Must be a Christian-
2 Corinthians 6:14- "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"

The occasion is very rare when dating a non-Christian that you lead him to Christ, it usually works the other way around!!!

2. They should have similar values as you do.
3. The question of inter-racial dating.
 - a. Scripture speaks of marrying other nationalities in reference to religion only
 - b. This is a cost that must be factored in- it may cause a social problem for you, your date, and eventually, your child. It may cause problems within your own family

III. Behavior During Dating

A. Exemplify Christ

1. Pray during your date- basically, if you are uncomfortable praying together, it will cause problems later.
2. Speak of Christ, church activities, etc. openly and unashamedly!

Matthew 6:33- "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

3. Let Christ be seen in you.

B. Show good manners

Ephesians 4:32- "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

1. Be courteous to your date (be a gentleman or a lady)

2. Prefer one another.

Romans 12:10- "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

3. Let Christ be seen in you.

Matthew 5:16- "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

C. Keep things in proper perspective- are you self-seeking or are you out to benefit your date?

1. Never use a date

2. Never take advantage of a date

3. Avoid places and situations which open themselves for 'heat of the moment' events.

1 Thessalonians 5:22- "Avoid every kind of evil."

a. Lonely dark roads

b. Low fuel tanks

c. Drive-in movies (things of the past)

d. Dances

e. Parties that flaunt intimacy

f. Swim parties

IV. Alternatives To Dating- (for just a moment, reconsider the whole dating scene.)

A. Group date

1. Can be done without boy/girl partnership
 2. Inexpensive
 3. Broad reaching as far as social development
 4. Various opportunities for positive witnessing
 5. Provides little opportunity for 'heat of the moment' situations
- B. Double-date
1. Expenses can be shared with one another
 2. Provides less opportunity for 'heat-of-the-moment' situations.
 3. Gives opportunity to show Christ-centeredness of your relationship with date.
- C. Friend date
1. Applicable under concept that everyone is not intended to marry
 2. May even be with boy/boy or girl/girl without any relational connotations
 3. Promotes deep friendship.
- D. Courtship
1. Definition- development of relationship between two persons within the parameters of parental supervision
 - a. Goal is (in progressive order):
 - i. Spiritual development
 - ii. Social development
 - iii. Marital prospect
 - b. Benefits are (not in any particular order):
 - i. Peer pressure is not a factor
 - ii. Opportunity for moral failure is minimized

- iii. Opportunity to observe one another's behavior with their parents (and thus, the opposite sex) is given.
- iv. External pressures are minimized
- v. Solid Biblical foundations are usually key steps in development of a love relationship.

2. Necessities of a courtship relationship

- a. Willingness of both individuals to submit to the parents involved.
- b. Willingness of at least one set of parents (and preferably both) to engage in this relationship-building scenario.
- c. Willingness of parents and youth to submit to the Lord and submit the relationship to His headship.

3. Downfalls of a courtship relationship- none

V. Blessing over purity and courtship/dating relationships

- A. God blesses purity in any relationship (especially the marriage relationship.)
- B. Matthew 6:33- "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
- C. Purity up to marriage usually leads to purity through marriage.

**Pure on Purpose (Part 5)
Covenant Commitment**

I. Covenant

- A. Our relationship to God is covenant in nature. Such an understanding makes us appreciative of God's faithfulness to us and gives us a sense of security in Him.
 - 1. Definition of a covenant
 - a. To bind together

- b. “A solemn compact or agreement by which each party binds himself to fulfill certain conditions and is assured of receiving certain advantages.”- Smith's Bible Dictionary
 - c. Webster's Dictionary- “a binding agreement made by two or more individuals to do or keep from doing a specific thing”
 - 2. God's dealings with men is always based on covenant
 - a. Noahic- Genesis 8
 - b. Abrahamic- Genesis 15:1-20
 - c. Mosaic- Exodus 20
 - d. New Covenant- Luke 22:14-20
- B. With reference to our covenant relationship with God, we enter into covenant relationships with one another.
 - 1. Business partners covenant with one another.
 - 2. Husbands and wives covenant (or make a vow) with one another.
 - 3. Parents and children should also covenant with one another.
- C. The cost of covenant relationship is sacrifice (giving up something).
 - 1. Sacrifice is symbolic that life is being given for the sake of others and that one is willing to die if necessary in order to remain faithful to that covenant. (i.e. Jesus ratified the New Covenant by his sacrificial death. Not only did He do it for us, but He also showed us a pattern that "we should lay down our lives for the brethren"-1 John 3:16)
 - 2. The cost of entering into covenant cannot be ignored. For example Jesus decreed one must "count the cost". He cited three areas where the price must be paid --- forsake old relationships; forsake self-will; forsake possessions. (Luke 14:25-35).
- D. As youth and parents, we must possess a "covenant mentality" to move with one mind toward purity.
 - 1. Covenant relationship is not merely being courteous or having warm feelings but it is based on a commitment to lay down our

lives for one another in practical service. In other words, we are very committed to one another to maintain purity.

2. Covenant love is not merely being loyal in "good times" but also during times of temptation (showing both substance and integrity).

E. Our covenant with one another is based on His New Covenant with us. It has not only a vertical commitment (where men's sins are dealt with and relationship with God is established), but a horizontal commitment (where we can respond to one another.)

1. Response between parents and youth

- a. "Love one another"-
John 13:34-35- "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- b. Trust or mutually depend on one another.
Romans 12:5- "so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
- c. Rejoice with one another
Romans 12:15- "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."
- d. Accept one another
Romans 15:7- "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."
- e. Encourage one another
1 Thessalonians 5:11- "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
- f. Confess your faults to one another
James 5:16- "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

2. Response between courting or dating partners

(Disclaimer: It is our view that a typical secular view of dating should be discouraged and instead that a trend toward courtship should be encouraged. Courtship is the process whereby a couple fellowship with one another only under the supervision and

interaction of one or both sets of parents. This makes room for a godly development of proper relationships.

- a. Outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:10- "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."
- b. Serve one another.
Galatians 5:13- "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."
- c. Bear one another's burdens.
Galatians 6:2- "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
- d. Be kind to one another.
Ephesians 4:32- "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
- e. Fellowship with one another.
1 John 1:7- "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."
- f. Build up one another.
1 Thessalonians 5:11- "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
- g. Stir up one another.
Hebrews 10:24- "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."
- h. Minister to one another.
1 Peter 4:10- "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."
- i. Be clothed in humility to one another.
1 Peter 5:5- "Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"
- j. Don't speak evil against one another.

James 5:9- "Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!"

3. Response toward future mates
 - a. Weep with one another.
Romans 12:16- "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited."
 - b. Wait for one another.
1 Corinthians 11:33- "So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other."
 - c. Pray for one another.
James 5:16- "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

E. Points of interest:

1. Commitment is essential, not optional. It is a necessity not a luxury.
2. Commitment is initiated by God not man.
 - a. The Holy Spirit "arranges" us (His responsibility).
1 Corinthians 12:18, 28- "But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.
And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues."
 - b. Recognize and mobilize (act on it), don't organize (our responsibility).
Psalm 68:6- "God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land."
3. Commitment is all-inclusive, not exclusive.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:2- "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy,

together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours.”

- b. We will actively maintain the unity of the Spirit with all Christians.
1 Corinthians 12:13- “For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”
 - c. We will resist all divisiveness in action, attitude, and confession.
Ephesians 4:3- “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”
4. Commitment is meaningful and practical, not mystical (invisible) and general.
- a. Although we are in covenant relationship with all believers in the body of Christ, we can only walk it out practically with those to whom we are "knit" by the Holy Spirit.
Colossians 3:19- “Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.”
 - i. i.e. Jesus and the twelve.
 - ii. i.e. The finger and the rest of the body.
 - b. Meaningful relationships take time and patience.
 - c. There must be a starting point--relating in "natural" ways.
i.e. Tonight's Covenant
 - i. This covenant will establish (or confirm) a vow between the youth and parent (or accountability partner.)
 - ii. This covenant vow is for godliness, purity, and mutual support.
 - iii. It also includes prayer support for the youth’s future mate.
 - iv. The covenant is to be read together at your individual tables.

- v. They are to be signed by youth and parent or accountability partners.
- vi. A token has been recommended if it is appropriate in your individual situation. Many of you are simply reconfirming a previous covenant you have made and in that situation a token would not be appropriate. A recommendation for the use of the token is to give back to the parent or to your mate on your wedding day as an indication that you have kept your vow and purity remains within you. This would be an appropriate time to give that token.
- vii. After the covenants are signed, they will be taken back up from each of you to present to the entire church tomorrow night during the service. The congregation will have opportunity to witness your covenant commitment and to pray for each family involved in the covenant.
- viii. The covenants will be returned to you on Sunday evening following the service.

Pure on Purpose (Part 6)
The Force of Positive Peer Pressure

I. The Christian Standard

Psalm 1:1-3- “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”

A. God has called us to a life of holiness before Him
 holy, Leviticus 11:44- "I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be because I am holy...”

B. God has called us to a life of holiness before others.
 grapes Matthew 7:16-18- “By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?
 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

C. God has called us to a life of edification of one another.
Romans 14:17-19- "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.
Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

II. The Lone Ranger Syndrome- Three-fold cord not easily broken
Ecclesiastes 4:12- "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

A. A single thread is easily taken apart
1. Modern movies have many of us thinking that one man can do it alone
a. Sylvester Stallone (Rambo)
b. Arnold Schwarzeneger
c. Chuck Norris
2. Music often creates a concept of "aleness"
a. Elvis and Frank Sinatra both were well-known for their rendition of the song "I Did It My Way."
b. Modern songs often deal with:
1. What can you do for me
2. Life is futile, Why bother
3. Since nothing really matters, then it doesn't matter who you hurt
4. ...And the beat goes on

B. Unity of purpose and presentation brings about strength.
2 Chronicles 30:12- "Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the LORD."
a. A building product known as plywood brings about light weight strength because of it "working togetherness" Each

“ply” is laid at a
giving strength and yet
weight

90 degree angle to the prior “ply” thus
maintaining lightness of

- b. Be thankful for two ply toilet paper and paper towels.
 (“The quicker picker-upper”)
- c. Canvas is a type of cloth made by weaving several strands
of thread together thus creating strength: such strength even
to the point of being able to be used as safety belts,
safety ropes, to suspend human weight, to pull “dead
weight” such as a car or plane, etc.

C. Even the Lone Ranger had a Tonto

III. And Jesus Sent Them Out Two By Two- The advantage of spending time together
as Christians-
Mark 6:7- "Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave
them authority over evil spirits."

A. You provide safety and integrity for one another

B. You give one another the prayer support needed when tough times come

C. You follow the biblical precedent

1. "Love one another"-
John 13:34-35- “A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love
one another.”
2. Trust or mutually depend on one another.
Romans 12:5- “so in Christ we who are many form one body, and
each member belongs to all the others.”
3. Rejoice with one another
Romans 12:15- “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those
who mourn.”
4. Accept one another
Romans 15:7- “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted
you, in order to bring praise to God.”
5. Encourage one another

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11– “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”
6. Confess your faults to one another
James 5:16- “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”
 7. Outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:10- “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”
 8. Serve one another.
Galatians 5:13- “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.”
 9. Bear one another's burdens.
Galatians 6:2- “Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
 10. Be kind to one another.
Ephesians 4:32- “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
 11. Fellowship with one another.
1 John 1:7- “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”
 12. Build up one another.
1 Thessalonians 5:11- “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”
 13. Stir up one another.
Hebrews 10:24- “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”
 14. Minister to one another.
1 Peter 4:10- “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.”
 15. Be clothed in humility to one another.
1 Peter 5:5- “Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward

one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'”

- D. You sharpen one another-
Proverbs 27:17- "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."
- E. You expand your energy through each other's faith
 - 1. It almost acts as a "Holy Ghost Alternator" for one another
 - 2. Your spirits begin to challenge one another's and your faith is increased

Conclusion: It is important that we as Young Christians begin to spend more time together, not with non- Christian friends, but with Christian friends, with the purpose of motivating one another to stronger godly stands and deeds.

The Blessing of Purity (Part 5) Covenant Commitment

I. Covenant

- A. Our relationship to God is covenant in nature. Such an understanding makes us appreciative of God's faithfulness to us and gives us a sense of security in Him.
 - 1. Definition of a covenant
 - a. To bind together
 - b. A solemn compact or agreement by which each party binds himself to fulfill certain conditions and is assured of receiving certain advantages- Smith's Bible Dictionary
 - c. Webster's Dictionary- "a binding agreement made by two or more individuals to do or keep from doing a specific thing"
 - 2. God's dealings with men is always based on covenant
 - a. Noahic- Genesis 8
 - b. Abrahamic- Genesis 15:1-20
 - c. Mosaic- Exodus 20

d. New Covenant- Luke 22:14-20

- B. With reference to our covenant relationship with God, we enter into covenant relationships with one another.
1. Business partners
 2. Husbands and wives
 3. Parents and children
- C. The cost of covenant relationship is sacrifice (giving up something)
1. Sacrifice is symbolic that life is being given for the sake of others and that one is willing to die if necessary in order to remain faithful. i.e. Jesus ratified the New Covenant by his sacrificial death. Not only did He do it for us, but to show us a pattern that "we should lay down our lives for the brethren"-1 John 3:16
 2. The cost of entering covenant cannot be ignored. For example Jesus decreed one must "count the cost". He cited three areas where the price must be paid --- forsake old relationships; forsake self-will; forsake possessions. (Luke 14:25-35).
- D. We must possess a "covenant mentality" to move with one mind toward purity.
1. Covenant relationship is not merely being courteous or having war feelings but it is based on a commitment to lay down our lives for one another in practical service. In other words, we are very committed to one another to maintain purity.
 2. Covenant love is not merely being loyal in "good times" but also during times of temptation (showing both substance and integrity).
- E. Our covenant with one another is based on His New Covenant with us. It has not only a vertical commitment (where men's sins are dealt with and relationship with God is established), but a horizontal commitment (where we can respond to one another.)
1. Response toward parents
 - a. "Love one another"-
John 13:34-35- "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one

another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. "

- b. Trust or mutually depend on one another.
Romans 12:5- "so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
- c. "Rejoice with one another"
Romans 12:15- "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."
- d. "Accept one another"
Romans 15:7- "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."
- e. "Encourage one another"
1 Thessalonians 5:11 - " Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
- f. "Confess your faults to one another"- James 5:16

2. Response toward dates

- a. "Out do one another in showing honor"
Romans 12:10- " Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."
- b. "Serve one another"
Galatians 5:13- "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature rather, serve one another in love."
- c. "Bear one another's burden's"- Galatians 6:2
- d. "Be kind to one another"- Ephesians 4:32
- e. 'Fellowship with one another"
1 John 1:7- "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."
- f. "Build up one another"
1 Thessalonians 5:11- "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
- g. "Stir up one another"

Hebrews 10:24- "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

- h. "Minister to one another"
1 Peter 4:10- "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."
- i. "Be clothed in humility to one another"
1 Peter 5:5- "Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
- j. "Don't speak evil against one another"
James 5:9- "Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!"

3. Response toward future mates

- a. "Weep with one another"
Romans 12:16- "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited."
- b. "Wait for one another"
1 Corinthians 11:33- "So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other."
- c. "Pray for one another"
James 5:16- "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

E. Point of interest:

- 1. Commitment is essential, not optional. A necessity not a luxury.
- 2. Commitment is initiated by God not man.
 - a. The Holy Spirit "arranges" us (His responsibility).
1 Corinthians 12:18, 28- "But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.
And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles,

also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues."

- b. Recognize, don't organize (our responsibility)
Psalm 68:6 NIV- "God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land."
3. Commitment is all-inclusive, not exclusive.
- a. 1 Corinthians 1:2- 'We will lovingly accept "all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. We will actively maintain the unity of the Spirit with all Christians.
1 Corinthians 12:13- 'For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink,"
 - c. We will resist all divisiveness in action, attitude, and confession.
Ephesians 4:3- "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."
4. Commitment is meaningful and practical, not mystical (invisible) and general.
- a. Although we are in covenant relationship with all believers in the body of Christ, we can only walk it out practically with those to whom we are "knit" by the Holy Spirit.
Colossians 3:19- "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."
 - i. i.e. Jesus and the twelve.
 - ii. i.e. The finger and the rest of the body.
 - b. Meaningful relationships take time and patience.
 - c. Starting point--relating in "natural" ways- Tonight's Covenant

