Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct,

in love, in faith, in purity. — I Timothy 4:12 ESV

<sup>1</sup>Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. <sup>2</sup>For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup>For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,

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<sup>5</sup>not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup>For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup>Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

—I Thessalonians 4:1-8 ESV

"Pleasing God is the intentional pursuit of every authentic follower of Christ."

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<sup>7</sup>For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

—I Thessalonians 4:7-8 FSV

Purity is a Standard Established by God

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"There is a God-given context for sex—heterosexual marriage."

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

—Genesis 2:24-25 ESV

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Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. —Hebrews 13:4 ESV

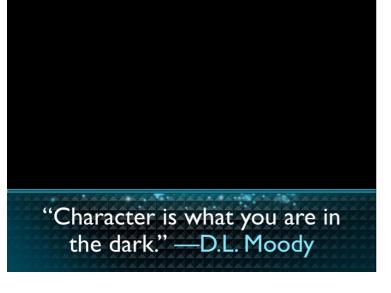
"No sinful sex is safe sex."
—Alistar Begg

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Purity is a Stigma in Our World

...not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.
—I Thessalonians 4:5 ESV

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Purity is a Struggle For Every Believer

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15Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.—I John 2:15-16 ESV

"Lust is a sexual desire that dishonors its object and disregards God."
—John Piper

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...that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor.—I Thessalonians 4:4 ESV

"Faith professed in Christ that does not regard God's standard of purity is simply hypocrisy."

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Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—I Thessalonians 5:23 ESV

How do we pursue purity?
Recognize God's Ownership
of Your Body

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<sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. —I Corinthians 6:18-20 ESV

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<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?... <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin...

13Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

How do we pursue purity?

Reclaim Your Members For

God's Glory

—Romans 6:1, 6, 13 ESV

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No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

—I Corinthians 10:13 ESV

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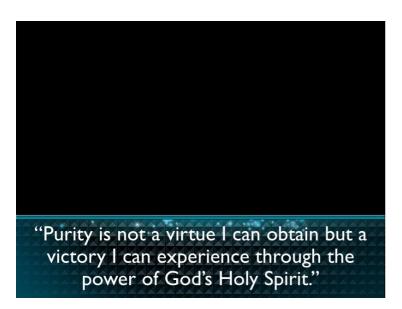
... that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.—I Thessalonians 4:6 ESV

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16But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh... <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.—Galatians 5:16, 22-23 ESV

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