

KEEP YOURSELF PURE

Marc W. Gibson

We have entered a time in our society where sexually inappropriate behavior and harassment has become a major issue. A whirlwind of alleged and confirmed accounts of sexual misconduct has swept up numerous politicians, executives, actors, and newspeople. In years past, we occasionally heard about incidents involving coaches, teachers, bosses, and even presidents, but now many more victims are emboldened to come forward and expose sexual abuses by the rich and powerful.

There is no excuse for such shameless conduct by men or women. The vast majority of accusations have been against men. This is due to the fact that more men are in positions of power which they shamefully use to force their lustful passions on those in vulnerable situations. Is it any surprise that this conduct has become so pervasive in a hedonistic culture that celebrates sexual immorality, revealing clothing, and lascivious activities? In such an environment, many will seek to fulfill their fleshly passions in whatever perverted way they choose, with little concern for the rights of others or the will of God.

In view of these things, we need to heed the instructions of inspired Scripture concerning maintaining purity in our lives. As Paul instructed Timothy, “Keep yourself pure” (1 Tim. 5:22).

PURITY IN THOUGHT

Paul admonished, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things” (Phil. 4:8). Much of what the world takes pleasure in is not pure. We need to avoid worldly pollutions so that we can “call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Tim. 2:22).

PURITY IN ACTION

Paul told Timothy, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). Others should be able to see purity exemplified in our words and actions. Christian morals are ridiculed in movies, TV programs, and books, but being chaste (virtuous, decent, undefiled) is what God desires (Titus 2:5).

PURITY WITH OTHERS

Men are to treat women with purity. Paul told Timothy to treat “older women as mothers, the younger as sisters, with all purity” (1 Tim. 5:2). Marriage is the only relationship in which sexual passions are to be fulfilled (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:2).

May this present firestorm concerning sexual misconduct remind us to keep our hearts with all diligence and put on the Lord Jesus Christ (Prov. 4:23; Rom. 13:12-14)!

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