**Purity in Relationship**

**Created by God &** **Intended for pleasure**

God created sex and sex was included when God looked over everything He had made and said it was good. God created us as sexual beings. He made us with physical longings and a need for intimacy with others. A sexual relationship was intended for pleasure and shared intimacy between husband and wife. While God made sex pleasing, He never meant that we should have sex any way we please. Rules for enjoying God’s gift of sex are set by the giver. They are set by what pleases God, not by what pleases us. C.S. Lewis explains God’s standards as *“either marriage with total faithfulness to your partner or else total abstinence.”*

**Principles that define sex**

**1. Sex must be relational:** Sex is designed to express a truly meaningful level of human relationship. God designed sex to work as a relationship between persons, not things. So if sex occurs in ways that deny personal value or treats people like “sex objects” then it is wrong.

**2. Sex must be exclusive:** A person with whom you have sex is not someone who is replaceable. God declares that a sexual relationship causes a man and woman to become “one flesh” Gen 2:24 and Jesus adds to it saying “What God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Matt 19:6). Read Malachi 2:14, Prov 5:15 -17. The more exclusive the more the value. Exclusive sex is precious and passing sex cheapens the relationship.

**3. Sex must be intimate:** Sex is not trivial. It is designed to be deeply meaningful. Without intimacy, sex is not worth much. The heart is taken out, only the shell remains. God made sex to join souls not just bodies. It unites husband and wife at the deepest level of being. *“For … be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”* Gen 2:24. - the beginning of a new relationship that is characterised by profound intimacy.

**4. Sex must be fruitful:** Sex not only connects individuals to each other it also builds community. This is seen in the blessing God gave Adam and Eve when he told them “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” vs 28.

**5. Sex must be selfless:** God made sex enjoyable, but not enjoying in self centered ways. Ex - Amnon and Tamar 1 Cor 7:3-4 – Paul says *“The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.****4****The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife.”* 1 Cor 7:5 - Paul also warned husbands and wives not to deprive one another sexually, except by agreement for a limited time so you may devote you selves to prayer.

**6. Sex must be complementary:** Gen 2:19 – Adam found that none of the other creatures God made was suitable for him. God then made Eve and Adam found his perfect fit. Her sexuality corresponded to Adam’s. No other kind of sexual relationship will do. At Sinai God told Moses sex with members of the same gender is an ‘abomination’ and sex with animals is ‘perversion’ Lev 18:22-23. Be aware of gender differences. The sexual experience works differently for men and women.

**Prohibitions:**

No sex outside marriage- adultery[Ex 20:14] or fornication

Sexual violence

Commercial sex (prostitution)

Homosexual

Bestiality

Incest

Paedophilia

Pornography/ cybersex

**Why Wait?** Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV) tells us: *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*

Toward God

* Sin - Grieving the Lord and broken relationship with God
* Discrediting the name of God

Toward self

* Possible physical consequences (unwanted pregnancy, STD).
* Addiction to premarital sex
* Guilt
* Shame
* Hardships of breaking up
* Plaguing memories
* Toward others
* Damages family relationships

**If we have already crossed the line -** It’s never too late to stop.

**Forgiveness:** God forgives all our sins.

**Repentance:** God’s forgiveness is based on true repentance. Jesus tells the woman caught in Adultery Go and sin no more.

**How do I stay pure?**

1. Intimacy with Jesus.

2. Stay away from temptation

**3. Don't feed your fantasies.**

4. Choose Your Friends Wisely

5. Consider the consequences

6.. Don’t be afraid to say ‘No’.

7. The idle mind is the devil’s workshop