

Jesus Christ: Pre-eminent in Human Sexuality (Part 3)

Abstaining from Physical Sexual Activity Is Not the Same As Maintaining Sexual Purity
- Matt 5:27-28

1) CULTIVATE A GOD CONSCIOUSNESS - Col 3:1-4; Matt 6:33; Matt 22:37-40

- Establish God Himself As Our Point of Reference for All of Life - Gen 39:7-9
- Believe that God is for us, not against us- Ro 5:8-10; 8:32
 - ...He loves us enough to tell us the Truth - Jo 8:32; 17:17
- We do not belong to ourselves - I Cor 6:18-20; Ro 12:1-2
- Indicators of truth:
 - ...what does the word of Christ say? - Col 3:16
 - ...what does the peace of Christ say? - Col 3:15
 - ...what does the name/nature of Christ say? - Col 3:17

2) CULTIVATE A GODLY IDENTITY - Prov 23:7; II Co 5:17; Ro 6:4-11; I Cor 6:9-11

- Live from the life of Christ in us - Col 1:27
 - ...fill up on the Spirit of Christ - Ga 5:16; Eph 5:18
 - ...a place in us deeper than our feelings, past, DNA... - Phil 2:3-4
- See temptation not against "just me", but against "Christ in me" - Ga 2:20; I Co 10:13
- See God's directives not against "just me", but against "Christ in me" - Ga 2:20; I Jo 5:3
- I am what Gods says I am - Ro 6:11

3) CULTIVATE A COMPELLING OF LOVE - II Cor 5:14

- Immerse sexual love (eros) into God's love (agape)
 - agape (constrains)... (stabilizes)... (enriches) eros
- Christian ethics are of love, not just law
- Love compels and constrains us in ways that law/fear/guilt cannot
 - ...love yourself, love your future mate, love your brothers/sisters with love of God

4) CULTIVATE A DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR THE FLESH - Eph 4:27; Ro 8:5-11; Ga 5:13

- Anticipate the assault and take precautions
- A sample strategy:
 - ...Know yourself; identify and own your weaknesses - II Cor 12:9-10
 - ...Get a team of same sex friends - Ga 6:1-2
 - ...Train your body/soul with "fasting" - I Cor 9:26-27
 - ...Establish definable, defensible boundaries
 - ...mental/emotional - II Cor 10:5; Phil 4:8
 - ...visual - Ps 101:3; Job 31:1; Ps 121
 - (not repress but re-direct my eye to God)
 - ...environmental/physical - Eph 5:8; Song of Sol 2:7; 3:5; 8:5
 - ..."Not before I say 'I do'"