

GOD'S REASONS FOR SEXUAL PURITY

1. God commands/requires it of us.

→ **Ephesians 5:3** – But among you there must **not be even a hint of sexual immorality**, or any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people (NIV). **Ephesians 5:4** – And there must be **no filthiness and silly talk**, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

2. To receive our future inheritance in heaven.

→ **Ephesians 5:5** – For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God (ESV).

3. To flee from idolatry.

→ **Colossians 3:5** – Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry (ESV).

4. You are my sister, I am your brother.

→ **I Timothy 5:1-2** – Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older woman as mothers, and **the younger women as sisters, in all purity**.

5. For our own sanctification/self-control.

→ **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5** – For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is that you **abstain from sexual immorality**; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God.

6. To fulfill God's purpose/not to reject God's will.

→ **1 Thessalonians 4:7-8** – For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but **the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you**.

7. We bring God into our sin! We do not own our bodies!

→ **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** – **Flee from sexual immorality**. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 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**, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

8. To be alive according to our true identity in Christ!

→ **Romans 6:11-14** – Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore **do not** let sin reign in your mortal body so that you **obey its lusts**, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; **but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God**. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

9. To walk in the light of Christ now in view of our future salvation/glorification!

→ **Romans 13:11-14** – Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore, let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, **not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality**, not in strife and jealousy. But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

10. To live blamelessly before God and please our Lord and Savior!

→ **Psalm 101:2-4** – I will give heed to the blameless way. When will you come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not fasten its grip on me. **A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil**.

→ cf. **Psalm 119:9-11**

11. To protect our souls from being overcome by sin.

→ **1 Peter 2:11** – Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to **abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul**.

12. To be holy and blameless before Christ as we anticipate His return!

→ **2 Peter 3:10-14** – But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be **in holy conduct and godliness**, looking for and hastening the coming day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, **be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless!**

***My prayer is that we would not simply acknowledge these verses as true, but that we would be doers of the Word!

→James 1:22 – But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

***I will also be praying that God helps us to take our sin as seriously as He does – only He can help us do that. Praise God that He is conforming us into the image of Christ!

→Romans 8:28-30 – And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, **He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.