

GOD'S WISDOM FOR PURITY IN DATING

Adapted from "Sexual Purity: What You Need to Know" by Randy Alcorn. Used with permission.

CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES

1. Sex is good. God created it, God called it "good," and it existed before there was any sin in the world.
2. Like all good gifts from God, sex can be misused and perverted.
3. The boundaries of sex (and sexuality) are the boundaries of marriage.
"If it's sexual, it's for marriage."
4. Your sexual purity is essential to your walk with God.
5. You are vulnerable and targeted for sexual immorality.
6. Your body belongs to God, not you.
7. Sexual purity begins in the mind, not the body.
8. Since God doesn't want you to have premarital sex, neither does he want you to do that which prepares your body for premarital sex.
9. Sexual intimacy outside marriage is stealing from God and the other person.
God has your best interests in mind.
10. God would not tell you to abstain from impurity if it was impossible to obey him.
11. Purity is an investment in your future. Think long term!
12. Men, the frontline of your battle for purity is pornography and lust.
Women, the frontline of your battle for purity is contentment and modesty.

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES

1. Realize you don't have to date.
2. If you're a Christian, only date Christians.
3. If you're a committed disciple, only date committed disciples.
4. Choose dates by character more than appearance.
5. Realize Christ is with you all evening—wherever you go and whatever you do.
6. Realize where you go and who you go with will influence your sexual desires.
7. Realize your date is first and foremost your brother or sister in Christ—not your "lover."
8. Focus on talk, not touch; conversation, not contact.
9. Avoid fast moving relationships and instant intimacy.
10. Plan your time together in advance, with no big gaps, with a definite end time.
11. Avoid risky situations at all costs; they are a set-up for failure.
12. Be accountable to someone about your physical relationship.
13. Pray together, in an appropriate way, at the beginning and end of each date.
14. When you sense the temptation coming, before things start to get out of control, RUN.
15. Write out your own standards and enforce them yourself. Make your moral decisions in advance.
16. Memorize Scripture on sexual purity and quote it when tempted.
17. Only do with your date what you would want someone else doing with your future spouse.
18. Beware of the "moral wear down" of lengthy dating relationships and long engagements.
19. If you've violated some of these guidelines, confess & repent. God is good & gracious.
20. Be radical—do whatever it takes to guard your sexual purity. Be a warrior! Fight!

References for further study: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, Matthew 5:28, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Corinthians 5-7 (especially 6:12-20), 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Job 31:1, Romans 13:14, 2 Timothy 2:2, Matthew 18:8-9, Matthew 16:27, Titus 2:12, 2 Peter 1:3-4, Galatians 6:7-9, Genesis 39, 1 John 4:4, Psalm 24:3-4, 1 John 1:9, Ephesians 2:8-10