

Family Legacy Institute

Tools For Families Building Godly Legacies

Why Purity Works A Conversation for Parents and Kids

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This is one of two articles written for parents to read together with their kids, particularly their teens. The content is aimed at providing conversations regarding the most potentially damaging issue facing kids today: cultural sexualization.

Here's a little quiz dealing with our sexualized culture. See how you score. As you look at each "item" on the left, circle a number on the right that expresses your opinion regarding **how sexually oriented** the "item" appears to be:

Item	Low					High
Magazines in supermarket checkout lane.....	1	2	3	4	5	
Magazines in the men's section of a magazine rack	1	2	3	4	5	
Teen magazines.....	1	2	3	4	5	
Primetime television shows.....	1	2	3	4	5	
Hollywood movies.....	1	2	3	4	5	
Pop music	1	2	3	4	5	
Cell phone use.....	1	2	3	4	5	
The Internet.....	1	2	3	4	5	
MTV.....	1	2	3	4	5	
Advertising in the windows of shopping malls....	1	2	3	4	5	

Add up the numbers you circled. What's your total score? ____

There are ten items, so the highest possible score is 50. If you scored anything lower than 25, you either live on another planet, you're legally blind, or you've become so used to our sexualized culture that you've accepted it as normal.

Here are three "sandwich advertising snapshots" of where this culture is at right now. Burger King has run an ad depicting oral sex with one of their new sandwiches. Hardees advertises a woman essentially having sex with a burger. Carls Jr. is selling their burgers using model in a bikini so small it has more to do with three band-aids than swimming suits. We're talking about

selling *sandwiches*. Yet no women’s organizations are picketing. No churches are preaching or praying about it. This manipulation has become so normalized into our culture and into our minds that we shrug our shoulders and walk away.

Our grandparents would roll over in their graves if they saw the level of sexual stuff our kids see every day. The Madison Avenue ad agency message is clearly challenging the church’s historic teaching. Today’s advertising blitz says, *sex is for personal recreation ~ God is irrelevant*. The “rules” by which we now operate include a) the two-consenting-adults rule, which has no boundaries, and b) the if-it-feels-good-it-must-be-OK,” which means kids in grade school are experimenting with oral sex. (Not kidding.)

Yet scripture teaches the value of purity. So the question calling for an answer is, which approach to sexuality works better – the way of the world, or God’s way? The rest of this booklet will examine that question. We’ll provide research findings to support our conclusions.

Definition Of What “Purity Works” Means

The first thing we must do is define what is meant when we say, “Purity works.” To understand this, we have to define and prioritize our goals. Here are two different lists of goals. Put an “X” beside the ones you would like to build into your life.

	List A		List B
	Ability to intimately attach and remain attached to your spouse		Freedom to try other spouses if the first one doesn’t pan out
	Ability to remain true to your spouse		Ability to experiment with numerous sexual partners
	Desire to maintain a “clean mind”		Ability to check out a little porn, maybe have an affair or two
	Desire to know God and be known by God		Intent to either ignore God, or hope He doesn’t exist
	Desire to deepen and strengthen personal character		Desire to flex with each situation, regardless of character issues
	Desire to control and focus your own sexuality		Desire to let your sexuality “find its own level,” wherever
	Desire to leave a godly legacy in the lives of your children		Assumption that your kids will figure life out by themselves, just as you did

If most of your “Xs” are in List A, then the rest of this booklet is oriented to help you. If most of your “Xs” are in List B, and if that’s OK with you, then the rest of this book may lead you to reconsider some of your goals.

Purity Works Because It’s Simple

The sexual sophistication of today’s culture leads to many layers of complexity ~ layers that are debilitating if your goals are found within List A above. One layer of complexity involves the probability of contacting one of the 25-30 forms of sexually transmitted diseases. Most people

who carry them don't know they have them and so STDs are passed routinely, sometimes leading to disastrous medical problems years later.

I'll always remember the "Barbie Doll" beauty who came for counseling, and began by tearfully explaining that she'd just been diagnosed with Herpes. "And he was such a nice guy ~ I honestly fell in love with him, and thought we might one day marry." As a pastor and therapist I have thus far successfully fought the urge to leap across my desk, shake a client by the neck, and scream, "What were you THINKING?!?" Simply stated, STDs make life more complex.

Another form of complexity involves what the counseling field calls "attachment issues," which basically means that the person has problems establishing and maintaining relationships.