



"10 Values That Grow Strong Christians", Series, Part 7
February 22, 2009 – Will Mackey

Protecting Your Marriage From Unfaithfulness (Exodus 20:14)

The whole concept of sex is a gift from God. But like every other gift from God, it must have discipline and boundaries applied to it so that it produces blessing instead of pain.

1. Commit to God's standard of purity.

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity..." (Ephesians 5:3)

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all of my heart; do not let me stray from your commands." (Psalm 119:9-10)

2. Rehearse the consequences of unfaithfulness.

"But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself." (Proverbs 6:32)

"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral." (Hebrews 13:4)

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity... I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19, 21)

3. Maintain your marriage by caring for the needs of your spouse.

"The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife."

Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control." (1 Cor. 7:3-5)

4. Manage your mind.

"...but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." (James 1:14-15)

5. Minimize the temptations and the opportunities to go astray.

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

"Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character." (1 Cor. 15:33)

How To Return To A Life Of Purity:

1. Repent of your sin.
2. End all illegitimate ties.
3. Tell your spouse.
4. Work through a reconciliation process with a pastor/counselor.