

Redefining Purity

Purity is bigger than behavior. It is about surrendering every part of life to God.

PURITY IS A HEART WILLING TO SURRENDER EVERY PART OF LIFE TO GOD.

MESSAGE OVERVIEW

Purity is often reduced to a short list: do not have sex, do not watch pornography, avoid lust, and save yourself for marriage. Those things still matter, but simply knowing something is wrong does not automatically change what we do. Week 1 asks us to think bigger: **Who does my life belong to?**

This message moves purity away from simple behavior modification and toward surrender. A pure life is not a perfect life. It is a life that keeps giving God the final word - even when our feelings, desires, habits, or relationships pull us another direction.

TONIGHT'S TWO QUESTIONS

- Why is surrender so hard?
- How do we choose God over our desires?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Purity is not only about what you avoid; it is about who your life belongs to.
- Shame says your past disqualifies you. God's forgiveness, redemption, and mercy are bigger than your past.
- A virgin is not automatically pure, and a person with a sexual past is not automatically impure.
- Temptation does not mean your faith is fake. The question is what you allow to rule you.
- Surrender means choosing God's way even when you still want your own way.
- Real surrender requires action, not prayer alone.

CORE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 51:10 | Galatians 5:17 | Romans 7:15, 19 | Romans 6:12

Purity Is More Than a List of Rules

THE OLD WAY WE OFTEN DEFINE PURITY

- Don't have sex.
- Don't watch pornography.
- Avoid lust.
- Save yourself until marriage.
- Don't do this. Don't do that.

Those boundaries matter, but a list by itself cannot change the heart. Knowing something is wrong has never guaranteed that people will stop doing it.

IF PURITY IS ONLY BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION, WE HAVE MADE PURITY TOO SMALL.

THE BIGGER QUESTION

Instead of only asking, '*What should I stop doing?*', ask: '**Who does my life belong to?**' When our lives belong to us, we submit to our own desires. When our lives belong to God, surrender becomes the center of purity.

WHAT CAN WE BE SUBMITTED TO?

- Ourselves and our own desires
- A boyfriend or girlfriend
- A phone, app, or algorithm
- Pornography or sexual habits
- The approval or pressure of another person

PURITY IS NOT JUST ABOUT WHAT YOU SHOULDN'T DO. IT IS ABOUT WHO GETS THE FINAL WORD.

HEART CHECK

- What part of my life do I treat like it belongs only to me?
- Is there a relationship, habit, app, or desire that has more influence over me than God does?
- When God asks me to give something up, what is my first response?

Your Past Does Not Get the Final Word

Shame tries to shut the conversation down before change can even begin. It says, *'You already failed. You are too far gone. This message is not for you.'* Week 1 directly rejects that lie.

A VIRGIN ISN'T AUTOMATICALLY PURE. SOMEONE WITH A SEXUAL PAST ISN'T AUTOMATICALLY IMPURE.

WHY?

Because purity is not a scorecard of your past. God's forgiveness, redemption, and mercy are greater than failure. The question is what your heart is doing now: **Will I turn back to God and surrender?**

LEARNING FROM DAVID

David was called a man after God's own heart, but he also sinned deeply. He gave in to lust, committed adultery, abused his power, and covered sin with more sin. When the prophet Nathan confronted him, David did not pretend he was fine. He turned back to God in repentance.

PSALM 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

David's prayer helps define purity. He does not ask God to make him look clean on the outside. He asks God to **create a clean heart**.

PURITY IS A HEART WILLING TO SURRENDER EVERY PART OF LIFE TO GOD.

HEART CHECK

- Have I confused purity with having a perfect past?
- Do I respond to failure with repentance or with shame and hiding?
- What would it look like for me to ask God for a clean heart today?

QUESTION 1

Why Is Surrender So Hard?

We are fallen people with competing desires. There is a real internal fight between what our flesh wants and what the Spirit desires. That struggle is not proof that your faith is fake.

GALATIANS 5:17

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.

YOU CAN LOVE GOD AND STILL BE TEMPTED.

PAUL UNDERSTOOD THE STRUGGLE

ROMANS 7:15, 19

I don't understand what I do... I don't do the good I want to do. Instead, I keep doing the very thing I hate.

Paul describes the same frustrating cycle many of us know: wanting what is right, then finding ourselves doing what we said we would not do. That struggle is real - but Scripture does not tell us to surrender to it.

ROMANS 6:12

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

THE REAL QUESTION

- What am I allowing to rule me?
- What am I submitting to?
- What am I spiritually bowing before?

STRUGGLE DOESN'T DISQUALIFY YOU. BUT STRUGGLE ALSO DOESN'T GET TO RULE YOU.

How Do We Choose God Over Our Desires?

FIRST, DEFINE SURRENDER

SURRENDER IS CHOOSING GOD'S WAY OVER MY OWN - EVEN WHEN I STILL MAY WANT MY WAY.

Surrender does not mean temptation disappears first. It does not mean, *'I finally do not want it anymore.'* Surrender is saying, **'I still want this, but God gets the final word.'**

1. STOP WAITING TO FEEL LIKE SURRENDERING

- You may still want it.
- You may still miss the person or the habit.
- Giving it up may hurt.
- Obedience does not have to wait for your feelings to agree.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL READY TO OBEY GOD IN ORDER TO OBEY GOD.

2. DO NOT JUST SURRENDER IT IN PRAYER - TAKE ACTION

Prayer matters, but surrender has direction. If nothing changes after the prayer, we may only be saying words. Put action behind what you are asking God to do in you.

- Delete the photos or contact.
- Delete the app, account, or VPN that gives you access.
- Unfollow the person or page.
- Stop the conversation when it crosses a boundary.
- Change the boundary with that guy or girl.
- Move the phone out of your room.
- Ask for help. Tell a trusted leader.

Remember It. Talk About It. Live It.

FLASHCARDS

What is purity?

A heart willing to surrender every part of life to God.

What is surrender?

Choosing God's way over my own, even when I still may want my way.

Does temptation mean my faith is fake?

No. Believers experience a real struggle between flesh and Spirit.

What does Romans 6:12 tell us?

Do not let sin reign so that you obey its desires.

What are two practical steps toward surrender?

Stop waiting to feel like surrendering, and put action behind your prayer.

What is the main movement of the series?

From 'I love this anyway' to 'God, I choose You anyway.'

STUDENT / SMALL-GROUP QUESTIONS

- What part of the message changed the way you think about purity?
- What is the difference between feeling shame and responding with repentance?
- What is one thing in your life that is hardest to surrender to God?
- Which is harder for you: obeying before you feel ready, or taking practical action after you pray?
- What is one boundary or action step you can put in place this week?

LEADER + PARENT FOLLOW-UP

- Keep the conversation free from shame. Remind students that their past does not make them unreachable by God.
- Ask what practical boundary would help them follow through on surrender this week.
- Encourage students to tell a trusted adult or leader when they are stuck in a repeated habit.
- Reinforce that purity is not perfection; it is persistent surrender and choosing God again.

I LOVE THIS ANYWAY... BUT GOD, I CHOOSE YOU ANYWAY.

PRAYER

God, create in me a clean heart. Show me what has been ruling my choices, and give me the courage to surrender it to You. When my feelings disagree with Your way, help me choose You anyway. Give me wisdom to make real changes, courage to ask for help, and strength to keep choosing You day after day. Amen.