

Alderwood Community Church

THE PURITY PROTOCOL

August 28, 2011

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.” Ephesians 5:3

BIG IDEA: Every Christian Must Be Radically Committed to Distinctive Sexual Purity!

“How diligently the cavalry officer keeps his sabre clean and sharp; every stain he rubs off with the greatest care. Remember you are God’s sword – His instrument.” Robert Murray McCheyne to a newly ordained missionary friend, 1841

INTRODUCTION:

1. The FDA keeps a sharp lookout for impurities in our food. Ortberg reassures us that...
 - Apple butter cannot have more than 4 rodent hairs or 5 or more whole insects per 100 grams.
 - Coffee beans cannot be more than 10% insect infected
 - Fig paste: *If there are more than 13 insect heads per 100 grams of fig paste in each of 2 or more subsamples, the FDA ruthlessly tosses the whole batch...*
 - Hot dogs: *You don’t want to know about it.*¹
2. Read Text: Ephesians 5:1-8
3. So let’s take this passion for clean food purity into the realm of behavioral and mental purity.

I. WHAT SHOULDN’T WE DO?

A. We Shouldn’t Do Impure Behavior

NOTE: *Porneia and akatharsia.* *Akatharsia ...is a more general term than porneia, referring to anything that is unclean and filthy. Jesus used the word to describe the rottenness of decaying bodies in a tomb (Matt. 23:27). The other ten times the word is used in the New Testament it is associated with sexual sin. It refers to immoral thoughts, passions, ideas, fantasies, and every other form of sexual corruption.*²

1. I was trained to always try to express any negative truth in a positive statement. For example, in a doctrinal statement: Don’t say, *We do not believe that a Christian can lose his salvation.* Say it positively this way: *We believe that it is the privilege of the Christian to rejoice in the assurance of his salvation.*
2. But, you know, there are times you just have to talk about **the negatives**.
 - My grandson was playing soccer with two other little boys on a corner lot. I carefully explained to the boys that if the ball went into the street they were **not** to chase after it because they could get hit by a car. A little while later I glanced at the boys and there they were lined up shoulder to shoulder right at the edge of the pavement staring at their ball across the street. *Way to go, boys!* And I was so glad I had gotten thru to them with a negative command.
 - God includes negatives:
 - **Exodus 20**--Eight of the Ten Commandments are negative, as in *Thou Shalt Not!*
 - **Proverbs 6:16-19** lists Seven Sins the Lord hates.
 - How about the **New Testament**? Are “negatives” only an Old Testament thing?
 - **Galatians 5:19-20**--“Fifteen Deeds of the Flesh” - Sexual immorality, Impurity, Debauchery, Idolatry, Witchcraft, Hatred, Discord, Jealousy, Fits of rage, Selfish ambition, Dissensions, Factions, Envy, Drunkenness, Orgies, And the like... **Galatians 5:21**, *I warn you...that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
 - **I Peter 2:1**-- Five sins to get rid of...
 - **Colossians 3:5ff**—Eight sins to put to death...

¹ John Ortberg, *The Life You’ve Always Wanted* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997), 168.

² John MacArthur, *Ephesians: The MacArthur New Testament Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1986), 200

- Christians have free-lanced their own negative lists. One of the most famous and most durable is the so-called “Seven Deadly Sins.” These go back to a 6th century list compiled by Gregory the Great. He contended that all sins could be traced back to one of these BIG SEVEN: Envy, Greed, Gluttony, Anger, Sloth, Lust, and Pride
 - Sometimes I suspect that we’ve gotten too far away from the negatives. *“Too many Christians are sowing wild oats through the week and then going to church on Sunday and praying for crop failure”—John Lawrence*
3. Now that I’m living with a practicing nurse, I have been getting special instruction on hand washing. I think you could call this an occupational hazard. Nurses scrub with soap for at least ten solid seconds. That doesn’t count the rinse. Understand, we’re talking a lot of time here.

You might think that a good scrub at the sink is the end of the job. You would be wrong. To a nurse, nothing is above suspicion: the faucet handle is guilty. The door handle is guilty. Picture a public restroom, teeming with invisible germs. Here’s the drill... After the scrub, the nurse leaves the water running. She/he grabs some paper towels and dries off. Using the paper towels she turns off the water. Using the paper towels she opens the door. She props the door with her foot, tosses the towels in the trash and slips thru the door without ever actually touching it.

Maybe that seems a bit extreme to you, but if you are sick in the hospital and a nurse is touching you, it is comforting to know that those hands are squeaky clean.

4. How interesting is that we insist on squeaky-clean food and squeaky-clean hospitals, but so many Christians think that impure sexual behavior is somehow OK.
5. But the Bible gets even more convicting...

B. We Shouldn’t Do Impure Thought.

- **Matthew 15:19**, *For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.*
- **Matthew 5:28**, *anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
 - Why is this thought discipline so important? Because our behavior flows right out of where our minds dwell.
 - I met twice with a buddy who was concerned about the unraveling of his marriage. He loved looked at pornography. And he couldn’t understand why it bothered his wife. His explanation was that he just liked looking at pretty women! I couldn’t get through to him. His wife lost patience with him. And he is now divorced. Bummer!
 - Jesus calls mental lust virtual adultery. This is a **huge statement** for Christian men in our visually-toxic entertainment culture.
- So the wise man gets it that the battle starts in the mind. Our first defense against sexual sin is mental resolve and mental conditioning with the Word of God: **Psalm 119:11**, *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

II. WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A. Because It’s Dangerous Out There!

- **John 17:15-17** *My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*
- The easiest way is to do this is to become a monastic hermit. Back in the early church there were guys who actually found a little cave in the desert and lived there the rest of their lives isolated from other people.
- **Simone Stylites** was a fifth-century ascetic monk. To proclaim what he believed was a more authentic kind of Christian faith, *he erected a sixty-foot tower east of Antioch with a platform on top of it and lived there for thirty-six years.*³

³ Joseph Stowell, *Shepherding the Church into the 21st Century* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1994), 83.

- **Macarius the Egyptian....dug a tunnel a half mile long between his cell and a cave in order to escape visitors.**⁴

- Realistically, most of us know that God wants us to mix it up with unbelievers, or how will they ever hear about Jesus?

I Corinthians 5:9, *I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-[he means professing Christians. See Verse 11] - 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.*

- What is this “world” that Jesus warned us about? It is the *kosmos*. The “kosmos” “is the sum of the divine creation which has been shattered by the fall, which stands under the judgment of God, and in which Jesus Christ appears as the Redeemer.”--**Kittel**⁵ Kittel notes that in Pauline usage, “there arises the distinctive nuance which has ever after clung to the word “kosmos” in the NT and the Church. The world is the epitome of unredeemed creation. It has become the enemy of God. It is the great obstacle of the Christian life.”⁶
- The wisdom of the “kosmos” is foolishness (I Corinthians 1:20; 3:19) and there is a mutual exclusiveness between the spirit of the “kosmos” and the Spirit who is from God (I Corinthians 2:12).
- This is what the Apostle Paul was talking about in **2 Corinthians 6:14 and 17**, *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁷ “Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”*
- [Cf. **Isaiah 52:11; Ezek 20:34, 41**].
- Doctrine of Separation: **Separate**: aphorizo {af-or-id'-zo} Meaning: 1) to mark off from others by boundaries, to limit, to separate 1a) in a bad sense: to exclude as disreputable 1b) in a good sense: to appoint, set apart for some purpose Usage: AV - separate 8, divide 1, sever 1; 10
- This is worldly **culture** = the “software of the mind.” *It is a learned pattern of beliefs, attitudes, values, customs, and products shared by a people.*⁷
- The Bible regards the world’s culture with almost uniform negativity. Note the warnings against cultural sinfulness in such passages as Ephesians 4:17-19 (“futility of their thinking”); 5:11-13 (“it is shameful to even mention what the disobedient do in secret.”); 5:16 (“the days are evil”); Philippians 2:15 (“a crooked and depraved generation”); Colossians 1:13 (“the dominion of darkness”); 3:2 (“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”).
- *“The greatest miracle of God is to take an unholy man out of an unholy world, make him holy, put him back into that unholy world, and then keep him holy.”—A. W. Tozer*

B. Because It’s **Loyalty** to the Family!

1 Peter 2:12, *Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

Philippians 2:15, *so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.*

1. Family loyalty calls for Alienation from worldliness: Duke University’s **William Willimon** writes, *When we were in seminary, we got the impression that our job as pastors was to help lessen the gap between the Bible and the “modern world.”...*

Since then I have come to the conclusion that today’s faithful pastor ought to clarify and accentuate the gap between the Bible and the modern world rather than lessen the gap.

⁴ E Glenn Hinson, *The Church Triumphant: A History of Christianity up to 1300* (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1995), 196.

⁵ Gerhard Kittel, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Volume III, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1965), 893.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ G. G. Hunter, *The Celtic Way of Evangelism* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000), 100.

Evangelism calls people, not to agreement, but to conversion, detoxification, the adoption of practices meant to save them from the deceits of the “modern world.”we need pastors willing to call people to alienation.

Give the world credit, one reason the world mostly ignores us is that we have so little to say that the world cannot hear as well elsewhere. When the church become Rotary, church will lose because Rotary serves lunch and meets at a convenient hour of the week!⁸

2. Family loyalty also calls for Exhibition of Christ’s Character—which inescapably involves things we do and things we don’t do!
 - Now I admit enthusiastically that the Christian life is primarily defined by what we are and what we do positively.
 - Let’s say you invited me out to coffee and you asked me to tell you about myself.
 - I’d tell you about my faith in Jesus and about my ministry as a pastor.
 - I’d tell you about my family.
 - I’d tell you about my upbringing and my schooling.
 - I’d tell you about my hobbies and what I’m reading these days.
 - On the other hand, I could have answered your question by giving you a list of the movies I won’t watch, and the books and magazines I won’t read, and the establishments I won’t patronize, and the websites I won’t visit. Those topics have validity, but just knowing what I don’t do won’t help you to know me very well. There are things that I reject, but to really know me you need to know what I embrace. You need to know what I passionately love.
 - *I spent some time today with a fellow I admire very much. He doesn’t drink alcoholic beverages, nor use tobacco in any form. I never heard him gossip or tell a lie. He doesn’t patronize the road houses, or theaters or dance halls. I can’t recall him ever resorting to cursing or blasphemy, profanity or obscenity. I never heard of him cheating another in a business deal. By some folks standards we could call him a “good Christian.” But I think you ought to know that I have been describing my dog. (Rev. J. Douthitt)*
3. Family loyalty is driven ultimately by the Holiness of God. This is where the Christian life finds its greatest traction.
 - **Leviticus 20:26**, *You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.*
 - **Isaiah 6:3**, *And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”*
 - **Revelation 4:8**, *Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”*
 - Now holiness is often poorly understood, even by Christians. Try this on for size: Holiness means essentially uniqueness. God’s holiness means that he is absolutely unique in every element of His being and character. The Christian’s holiness means that he is uniquely related to God—that is, he is God’s unique possession, separated unto God out of every other relationship of life. The Christian is God’s special possession to be used only for God’s purposes and pleasure.
 - Notice that the Bible doesn’t say God is “love love love” or “truth truth truth.” He IS love and He IS truth but when it comes to holiness, He is triply “Holy, holy, holy.”
4. The word for “God’s holy people” in **Verse 3** is *HAGIOS*, literally, Saints.
 - **1 Peter 1:14-16**, *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” [Cf. Lev. 11:44]*
5. Therefore these things are “not even” (lit.) to be mentioned among believers—*The negative disjunctive particle...indicates that believers should not only shun these sins but also avoid thinking and talking about them.*⁹

⁸ William Willimon , “Wanna Become an Alien?” *Leadership*, Summer 1998, 24.

⁹ Peter T. O’Brien, *The Letter to the Ephesians: Pillar NT Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999), 360.

6. *The injunction...does not imply a mealy-mouthed refusal to call a spade a spade...it means rather that such unholy things should not be acceptable subjects of conversations among people whom God has called to be holy.*¹⁰
7. The main reason is that this is **inappropriate/unfitting** for saint/holy ones—so says **Verse 3**.

III. HOW URGENT IS THIS?

A. Just Look Around!

1. The licentiousness of the Roman world—*It has been said that chastity was the one new virtue which Christianity introduced into this world. It is certainly true that the ancient world regarded sexual immorality so lightly that it was no sin at all.... It was the expected thing that a man should have a mistress.... In his speech Pro Caelio Cicero pleads: "If there is anyone who thinks that young men should be absolutely forbidden the love of courtesans, he is indeed extremely severe....When indeed was this not done? When did anyone ever find fault with it? When was such permission denied?"—William Barclay*¹¹
2. A NT indication of this is in the letter to Antioch Gentile Christians in **Acts 15:19-21**, *"It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. ²⁰ Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. ²¹ For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."*—Many Bible teachers say these are only ceremonial matters....All three prohibitions according to this interpretation look back to the Jewish ceremonial Law.
*However, it seems better to take these as moral issues. ...Fornication was such a common sin among the Gentiles that it was an accepted practice. The problem of immorality even persisted among Christians all too often...*¹²
3. Look around Today
 - I carry a mental list with me all the time of great Christian preachers, authors, and leaders who have fallen sexually. I have their books on my selves. I've sat under their preaching. And then they cratered.
 - Multiple members of my relatives have been or are currently living in sexual immorality.
 - One of my grandfathers served jail time for child-molesting.
 - Over my 39 years in the ministry, I've lost track of how many of my Alderwood and Snohomish friends have fallen into sexual sins—and how many marriages have been destroyed.
4. Statistics:
 - Over 50 percent of evangelical pastors report they viewed pornography last year.
 - Pornography is a \$10 billion business
 - 20 percent of the Internet consists of pornographic content. NOTE: *James Dobson has called Internet pornography the new "Crack Cocaine."*
 - 1800 percent—pornography growth over the last five years (1998-2003)¹³
 - *I just spent the past two hours reading 226 plot synopses for TV's Friends. According to my calculations, during the course of the show's 10 years on the air...the character of Rachel...has had some sort of sexual relations with about 20 men. Of those, at least five were actual partners (including a fellow Friend), while the remainder were divided among sexual fantasies, flashbacks and flings... --Bruce Kluger*¹⁴

¹⁰ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians: NICNT* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1084), 370.

¹¹ William Barclay, *The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians: The Daily Study Bible Series* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1958), 191.

¹² John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1983), 395.

¹³ Scott Covington and Curt Swindoll, "Pornography: No Longer a Dirty Little Secret" <http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/1224639.html>. Accessed 10.16.03

¹⁴ Bruce Kluger, urges parents to talk to teens about TV's casual sex, *USA Today*, December 22, 2003.

- Scandinavia provides a “geographical time machine” for us to see what we are probably going to become if things continue to secularize as they have been. *Marriage is slowly dying in Scandinavia. A majority of children in Sweden and Norway are born out of wedlock. Sixty percent of first-born children in Denmark have unmarried parents.* (Stanley Kurtz, “The ‘Conservative case’ for Same-Sex Marriages Collapses,” *The Weekly Standard*, February 2, 2004)
 - *A third of all babies were born to unmarried women (33 percent), compared to only 3.8 percent in 1940.* (James Dobson, *Bringing Up Boys*, Tyndale, Wheaton, 2001, 133)
 - *Cohabitation has increased by 1,000 percent since 1960.* (Ibid, 133)
 - Maybe C. S. Lewis had it right, *The monstrosity of sexual intercourse outside marriage is that those who indulge in it are trying to isolate one kind of union (the sexual) from all the other kinds of union which were intended to go along with it and make up the total union. The Christian attitude does not mean that there is anything wrong about sexual pleasure, any more than about the pleasure of eating. It means that you must not isolate that pleasure and try to get it by itself, any more than you ought to try to get the pleasures of taste without swallowing and digesting, by chewing things and spitting them out again.* in *Mere Christianity*)
5. So this is the world we live in—and it influences the people of God more that we realize unless we are absolutely vigilant.
 6. [N]ational news wires carried the story of a California couple who were in a hot tub when the thermostat got stuck and the temperature rose from 100 to 110 and finally to 120 degrees. They didn’t notice the increase in heat and both of them dozed off. They literally cooked to death after going into a coma. *Our culture is like a giant hot tub that is slowing boiling us to death.*¹⁵

B. Sneak a Peek Behind the Curtain—I am convinced that Satan is winning a brilliant war against the church, not by eroding our doctrinal statements, but by attacking our flanks thru pornography and immorality. He is neutralizing and marginalizing our men through moral defeat.

- **Ephesians 4:27**, do not give the devil a foothold.
- **1 Peter 5:8**, Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
- *The men of the church are in the Devil’s gunsights and he is taking them out one-by-one and by droves.*
- **Mark Twain on the devil:** *We may not pay Satan reverence, for that would be indiscreet, but we can at least respect his talents. A person who has, for untold centuries maintained the imposing position of spiritual head of four-fifths of the human race, and political head of the whole of it, must be granted the possession of executive abilities of the loftiest order.*
- **H. G. Wells** in *The Mind at the End of Its Tether:* *Our world is like a convoy lost in the darkness on an unknown rocky coast, with quarreling pirates in the chart room and savages climbing up the sides of the ship to plunder and do evil as the whim may take them. Where is the Captain? The ship is driving for the rocks, and man cannot stop it.*
- **A Martin Luther hymn:**
*In devil’s dungeon chained I lay
 The pangs of death swept o’er me.
 My sin devoured me night and day
 In which my mother bore me.
 My anguish ever grew more rife,
 I took no pleasure in my life
 And sin had made me crazy.*

*Then was the Father troubled sore
 To see me ever languish.
 The Everlasting Pity swore
 To save me from my anguish.*

¹⁵ Dennis Rainey, *Lonely Husbands, Lonely Wives*, 271.

*He turned to me his father heart
And chose himself a bitter part,
His Dearest did it cost him*

*Thus spoke the Son, "hold thou to me,
From now on thou wilt make it.
I gave my very life for thee
And for thee I will stake it.
For I am thine and thou art mine,
And where I am our lives entwined,
The Old Fiend cannot shake it."¹⁶*

• **All ACC men are invited to the *FREEDOM FIGHTERS* INFO MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 7:00PM**

- About a year ago a bunch of us men did a study of I Peter together. In the last lesson we hit **1 Peter 5:8-9**, *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*⁹ *Resist him, standing firm in the faith...* And the study guide asked this question: *Is there anything you might do to apply some command or promise in 5:8-11 to the situations you are now facing? If so, write down how you might act in obedience, or how you might let this truth sink into your heart.* I wrote this in my book: *Look for the devil's incursions and apply resistance right there—e.g., start a "Freedom Fighters" ministry.*
- So, I and four buddies have teamed up to help men resist the devil and stand tall and firm...
- **See FAQ's** on-line. Here's my favorite FAQ: Q: How do I get over feelings of conspicuousness or embarrassment in showing up for *Freedom Fighters*? A: In Men's Fraternity we learned the biblical definition of manhood as 1) Rejecting passivity, 2) Accepting responsibility, 3) Leading courageously, and 4) Looking to God's greater reward. That's a great segue into *Freedom Fighters*. If something needs to be "fixed" in your life—if it's hurting your family and your relationship with God—then it's time to man-up and do the hard and gutsy work. Walking into Room C200 on September 14 may be the manliest thing you've done in a long time. Face up to what is at stake. Invite a friend to come with you. Make a commitment to your wife and ask for her support and prayer. Walk into the room with your head held high and with an expectant spirit that you are here to engage in battle and take back ground from the devil!
- Brochure in lobby kiosks
- Questions: Give me a call...
- **Keep Short Accounts with God:** *You don't go from a close walk with God to jumping in bed with a prostitute in 24 hours.* You get to sexual immorality thru a slow process of spiritual erosion. Here is a true story of how the moral descent works:
 - CCM's Clay Crosse shared his story a little over ten years ago: *A "healthy fantasy life," he reasoned, couldn't hurt anyone. "Because I valued being an open-minded Christian," he says, "I allowed things into my life that someone who's trying to be Christ-like should not. It filtered in through TV shows, comedians...I'd go see movies that really pushed the envelope, arguing that they had artistic value, even if I knew they weren't the kind of things I should be seeing as a Christian. Lust invaded my life, day in, day out, and when I dealt with women, it was hard to keep my mind [on the right things]. I eventually began to justify pornography as, "Yeah, this is a good turn on, but I'll direct it toward my wife eventually...."*
"The whole pornography thing can only go on for so long before you want it to be a reality, and I had gotten to that point. Thankfully I never committed adultery, but it was getting there. And it would've gotten here had God not turned me around."¹⁷

¹⁶ Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand*, 50-51.

¹⁷ Melissa Riddle, "Brave new world," *CCM*, May 2000, 50-51.

- Do you really want to go there? Are you willing to take the risk? **Steve Farrar** wrote a book called, *Finishing Strong*. Chapter 5 is called “Dry Shipwreck.” It is about the devastation of immorality. His section headings in that chapter are sobering:
 - *Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go.*
 - *Sin will keep you longer than you wanted to stay.*
 - *Sin will cost you more than you wanted to pay.*
 - If you can’t control the Internet or your TV or cable, disconnect them. *Someone has said that most men who flee temptation leave a forwarding address. So...*
 - *get on the bus, Gus*
 - *make a new plan, Stan*
 - *drop off the key, Lee*
 - *and get yourself free.*¹⁸

CONCLUSION:

1. ***“*We must arrange life so that sin no longer looks good to us.*” --**John Ortberg**
2. Author Doug Wilson...points out that too many people in the evangelical community have come to justify watching on the screen various activities we wouldn’t think of viewing in the flesh. Things that would embarrass us all if they were real embarrass us not at all because they are only simulated. (Joel Belz, “Second-hand steam,” *World*, August 23/30, 1997, 5) We arrest Peeping Toms and then do virtually the same thing in our entertainments. Maybe we should call it “virtual voyeurism.”
3. **Gordon Fee:** *In most Western cultures, where sexual mores have blatantly moved toward pagan standards, the doctrine of the sanctity of the body needs to be heard anew within the church. Sexual immorality is still sin, even though it has been justified under every conceivable rationalization. Those who take Scripture seriously are not prudes or legalists at this point; rather, they recognize that God has purchased us for higher things.*¹⁹

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August 28, 2011

¹⁸ Steve Farrar, *Point Man* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 1990), 106.

¹⁹ Gordon Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987), 266.