



## MTA 2015 PERSONAL PURITY

Many religious leaders today are in the grip of obsessions they are powerless to resist. How are God's people supposed to be?

### Holy God, Holy People

Leviticus 22:32-33 NLT

Deuteronomy 26:18-19 NLT

### Holiness in Leadership, OT Pictures

1. Flawless Priests, Lev 21:16-18
2. Engraved Crown, Ex 28:36-38
3. Joshua's Garments, Zech 3:3-7
4. Joseph's Escape, Gen 39:8-10
5. Phinehas' Zeal, Num 25:10-13

### Warnings From Proverbs

Choices determine our life path

Wisdom literature addresses our choices

1. Lust leads to destruction, Pr 7:21-23  
Consider the destructive effects of lust
2. Watch who you're with, Pr 1.10-15, Pr 4.14-15
3. Be proactive, Pr 4:23-27

### Am I being too careful?

- Better to be safe than sorry
  - Better to be funny than to fall
  - Better to be weird than woeful
  - Better to be awkward than displease God
- Prov 4:18

### The Biblical Calling

1 Pet 1:14-16, 1 Timothy 4:11-12 RSV, 2 Tim. 2:22

1. The minister of God's house must be an example of purity and obedience.
2. His private life must dictate what he teaches.
3. His self-control and temperance should lead to wise choices and an honourable lifestyle.
4. He should demonstrate what it means to shun evil, i.e. to live a holy life.

### When Leaders Fall

- Harm to the leader's spouse
- Harm to the leader's children
- Harm to the church
- Harm to Christian witness

### It's about your private life

The critical questions to ask are:

- Is my personal life shaped by my beliefs, ideals, and traditions as it once was?
- Is my faith effectively shaping my integrity as a Christian leader?

- Do my beliefs make a difference in my private life?

### Temptations & Excuses

- “I can’t fall.”
- “No one will know, no one will ask anyway.”
- “I’m stressed. I need this to de-stress.”
- “This is a small sin compared to the good things I’m doing”
- “I’ve sacrificed all these years, and that’s the thanks I get. From now on, I’m going to get something for myself.

### Purity Principles

- Sexual temptations are common to man.
- Marriage is priority for a married man.
- Pride in any form kills.
- You are only as accountable as you want to be.
- Sin must be hated.
- Compromise in one area leads to compromise in other areas.
- Fight the battles one day at a time.

### Helpful Pointers

1. Thou shalt not visit the opposite sex alone at their home.
2. Thou shalt not counsel the opposite sex alone in your office.
3. Thou shalt not counsel the opposite sex more than once without that person's spouse being present.
4. Thou shalt not go to lunch or be alone in public with a member of the opposite sex.
5. Thou shalt not kiss any church attender of the opposite sex or show any affection that can be questioned.
6. Thou shalt not discuss detailed sexual problems with members of the opposite sex in counseling.
7. Thou shalt not discuss thy marriage problems with members of the opposite sex.
8. Thou shalt be careful in answering letters and emails from members of the opposite sex.
9. Thou shalt make thy wife a protective ally in counseling.
10. Thou shalt pray for the integrity of staff members and colleagues in ministry.

Let’s continue to fight the battles!