

Purity

The ONLY Way...

By Matthew Rushton



I would like to start this article by saying that **I AM NOT "FINISHED" BEING PURE.** I have only begun this journey of a lifetime. Purity is to last our entire lifetime. I am in the middle of this journey with you. I struggle just as much as you do. We are in the midst of this **"NEVER-ENDING JOURNEY."** It is never to be taken lightly or for granted.

Once we are on this journey, we can't just stop being pure even when we grow up. I found this Bible verse when seeing what the Bible said about purity. God says here that He wants us to be faithful, blameless and pure all the days of our life. I think it is one of the best verses in the Bible to say that **YOU CAN NEVER STOP BEING PURE...**

"To the faithful You show Yourself faithful, to the blameless You show Yourself blameless, to the pure You show Yourself pure, but to the crooked You show Yourself shrewd." 2 Samuel 22:26-27

The Bible shows here that God honors the faithful, blameless and pure above all others. He thinks of the others as crooked or wicked. As for me, I want to be considered faithful, blameless, and pure. I want to be pleasing in all areas of my life for God. I never want to stop being faithful, blameless or pure any of the days of my life. Even though the crooked and wicked can change, it is better to stay away from that swampy path.

I also believe that the "PURITY JOURNEY" is only *beginning* once we grow-up. Purity is not just related to "dating" or finding a spouse. It is to be a lifestyle for all of life.

Nothing Before God...

One of the most important ways of being pure is not to put anything before God. This can be anything from other gods, boy/girl relationships, careers, accomplishments, possessions and much, much more. The way to know when we are dealing with one of these issues in our life is by looking at what we put first in all or at least most of our life. Starting by looking into our minds, then by checking our heart, and last by looking at what we are spending our time doing and what we are spending our time thinking about. This is a sure-fire way to know what is first and foremost in our life (I know it works for me).

The biggest one of these things for me is the possessions part. I have always had a thing for buying expensive but "essential" things such as

guns, civil war re-enactment equipment, knives, boats, computer stuff, clothes and much more. The way I have always gotten these things has not been through the black market like I am sure you are beginning to think; but by working for our family business and through the charitable donations from all my generous grandparents! Instead of letting my grandparents buy me a lot of junk (and believe me I mean JUNK), I just ask them to send me the money they would spend on this junk instead. I use this "junk money" to buy my "essentials." The way this distracts me from God is by my thoughts being more on what to buy next rather than about the freedom God bought for me through His Son.

The Boy/Girl Thing...

One great area in which most have trouble being pure is the area of male/female relationships. I found this Bible verse when I was looking for everything that the Bible says on purity and I think this one is most appropriate verses for this part of the article...

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. I seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You." Psalms 119:9-11

This is the most important area to me because I feel it is not loyal to the spouse God has planned for me to give my heart away to anyone that comes along. This is one of the top "**Marriages Breakers**" of all. This is also an area it is best to guard your heart and ask God for strength in daily.

God wants all of us to be pure in the area of male/female relationships. I feel this is what He meant when He said in Matthew 5:8, "**Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.**" He also wants for us all to have no regrets at all going into marriage and to have no problems talking to boys or girls in the meantime. God wants us to treat the other boys and girls in the Church/School/Support Groups/etc. as brothers and sisters. No, I don't mean for all of you boys and girls reading this to start having a boy/girl wars or as the parents would say "sibling rivalry." I mean just don't go and drool in the corner over all the good-looking guys/girls at your church/school/support group.

I have found that many Young Adults that do not "**Date**" while at... youth groups, classes, schools, support groups, etc. are usually treated "like aliens" by other members of these events who do not understand the beliefs of those who "don't date." The best thing to do if you are the "alien" is never be discouraged by the attitude others may have toward you at first. Often, it is only because they don't understand your beliefs.

I, myself, had this very same problem. I had to deal with all this at church about 5 or 6 years ago. Nobody at that church could understand what I believed, or why I believed it. For just a short time until I explained it all as clearly as an 8-year-old could! Not everyone understood. But, a good number of them began to understand what I believe, and in the end came to realize that God was dealing with them on the

very same area as this "Alien."

Although it is not easy, there is going to be a cost for whatever we choose, whether right or wrong. My pastor ended a sermon not long ago by saying...

"There is always a small cost to pay for something why not pay it to do right and serve God!"

Bro. Larry Wright

We all know that Satan tempts everyone, even his own people. Why not choose to flee from his temptation, even if it makes you an "alien" for a small period of time. The cost is very small considering how precious our hearts are.

Dating...A Sticky Situation!

I used an illustration in another article I wrote called ***Commitments of a Homeschool Pre-teen*** that I want to share with you. It is the best way to describe what happens when our hearts do a thing called "dating." I have found that "dating" is early practice for divorce. It teaches two people to get attached, then when they know each other good enough to know all the dirt on the other person, they just dump each other.

The illustration I made in the article I wrote is that if you have ever wore a sticky name tag, you will know that you can only stick it to something so many times before it will not stick at all. Usually it only sticks well the first or second time. This is exactly what happens to the heart of those that are always out after some "new boy or some new girl." Sooner rather THAN later their heart will not stick to anyone in the way that God designed for the husband and wife to be, usually not even to the person God created for them to marry.

Never Too Late...

I want to say here that if you have had relationships with boys or girls that you regret, there is not much you can do about the past, but you can allow God to change your future and help you to erase the past from memory. He is a Redeemer. He can "buy" back any of your regrets through His Son Who has bought our freedom from sin and death already. It is never too late to begin again. He will give us all a totally clean slate. After we repent of our failures, we can be comforted in knowing that the Lord only keeps a memory of the good things we say and do, not the bad things. Take a look at what the Lord says in the following Bible verse I "stole" from my mom's "Notebooking" workshops...

"Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored His name." Malachi 3:16

I wanted to share with you a little word that the Lord has laid on my heart just for you. The Lord assures us that when we come to Him in repentance of our sins, He is faithful to forgive us completely. Romans 8: 1 tells us that those who are "**in Christ Jesus**" now have "**therefore now NO condemnation.**" God forgives completely. He removes our sins as far as the east is from the west. He has a Book of Remembrance. But, in that book, He only keeps up with all the good things that we say and do not the bad things!

(Praise the Lord!) Isn't it going to be just wonderful to be in heaven and to be allowed to hear God read aloud all the good things all the famous people like Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Billy Graham, Corrie ten Boom, Elisabeth Elliott, and all the others that are too numerous to list anywhere but in heaven?

Please! Wait For The Lord...

The next very important part of becoming "Pure From Normal" is patience. I began looking for verses on "patience" and "waiting." I could not find quite what I was looking for, but I found one or two verses that are great encouragement...

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Psalms 27:14

Patience is not only an important issue and part of the purity journey, it is a big part of our every day lives as Christians. If we don't have patience at the beginning of our Christian walk, we will soon acquire it or have a hard time until we do. I have an illustration and one more Bible verse for you to look up as I close.

The biggest struggle I have ever had with patience was in the area of buying my very first Glock Autopistol (I told you earlier that I love expensive things.). As long as I can remember, I have always wanted a Glock Model 23 in 40 caliber S&W. I bet by now I have lost all of you girls who are reading. Let me just say on your behalf that it is the "ultimate" handgun. As long as I have wanted this handgun, I was also trying to save money in order to buy it. Finally in the month of May 2001, I had saved all the money I needed in order to buy this "Super Gun" from a local gun shop in Florence Alabama (where I live) called ***The Gun Runner***. So, I started asking my parents to go by this place to see if I could get one. Let's just say I asked probably close to 1,000 times if not a million times to go by this gun shop. Well, it seemed the more I asked the farther away from going I got. I was asking every time I woke up each morning till the time I went to bed each night.

Finally, in early August I was able to go to this gun shop and look around. The Glock Model 23 in 40 caliber S&W (this is the compact or medium-size handgun) that I had found fit so well when I was 9 and even 12-years-old had become to small for my freshly 14-year-old hands. I continued to look through the guns under the glass case to see if I saw one that could fit any better and looked at a few more in different calibers such a .45 auto (A BIG BULLET AND A BIG GUN), 9mm Parabellum (a little smaller bullet than what I had originally wanted but it would work if I just had to have one).

After I had finished looking at (and holding and drooling over) all the guns under the glass "up close," my dad said we had some more errands to do before five and we must be going. I began to think, "*How could we leave when I have got to spend all the money I have saved to buy a Glock with?*" We got in the truck I almost felt like crying because I had went one more day without getting what I wanted. Then, to my surprise, my dad asked how I had liked the Glock Model 21 in .45 auto (a much larger gun than I had originally wanted to buy, but much more powerful of a bullet). I began to remember just how well it fit my hand and how even though it was

heavier than the one I wanted, it all balanced out to me. It was in my opinion the "ultimate" American man's handgun. I ended up buying the Glock Model 21 .45 auto.

Well Worth the Wait...

I have never been more pleased than I am after waiting to get the "right" handgun for me. If I had purchased a gun immediately after I had saved up enough money, I would not have the same gun today. Sure, I could have been happy with the other gun. It is not that the other gun was or is not a good gun, it was just not good for me for the rest of my life. I also learned from the gun shop owner that before I had bought the gun a policeman owned it for three months and then sold it to the gun shop, which subsequently sold it to ME. This gun was not even in the store at the time I first wanted to buy one. If my parents hadn't put off going by the gun shop, I might have got to impatient and maybe bought a gun that would not suit my needs or fit my hands in less than just a month.

I think this story has some very good points to be taken from it. The first is that what I thought I needed, I had no clue that it did not suit all of my needs (holding onto it, keeping for more than a month!). It was not the size I would need permanently either. Although these are not things that are wrong with this gun, they are the things that could really seriously affect the shot placement during a pistol competition and could cause me to lose by mere inches to someone who has got a handgun that fits their hand.

I know that most 14-year-olds like myself have most likely not met their spouse yet. If by some chance they have, they are definitely not ready to get married and accept the responsibilities of a family (like driving, buying and maintaining a home, or even having a job!). In my opinion, I thought I was ready to buy

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the gun I wanted when I was 9 or 10. Now, I know I was not ready to have a Glock until I actually got one. I was not as educated in some areas till I had a Glock. One major reason I was not allowed to have a Glock was because Glocks do not have an external safety. All you have to do to shoot one is pull the trigger and it goes BANG! I know that there is much I have not yet learned about marriage and family (much more than I did not know about a Glock). I just pray I will be more patient in waiting for my wife than for my Glock. Even though I may have not even met my wife to be yet, I think I can say that I know God has made her like the Glock He gave me—in the right Model, Size, and Caliber!

Stay Pure...It's The ONLY Way!

The last verse I have for this article is from Isaiah 30:18...

"Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him!"

My prayer for you is that you will wait patiently upon the Lord. Seek to stay pure. It may not be the EASY way, but it is the ONLY way to be blessed richly! I pray that each of you reading this whether young or old may learn that you are never too old to become pure and

About Matthew...

*Yes! You are correct! Matthew is the son of Harold and Cindy Rushton. We have begged for this article for some time now. At last, we welcome it to the pages of **Time for Tea**.*

Matthew wanted for everyone to know that the reason the cover of this issue is BLUE is so he could "save his reputation" with his friends as they joined us this issue for a time for tea! By the way, we warmly welcome all of you! May you be filled to overflowing as you pour through this issue.

*Just a bit about Matthew... Matthew was saved when he was just five years old. This article the result of his search to really KNOW God and God's best plan for his life. Matthew is the author of several wonderful books (see the ad on this page). He has also been a guest writer for **Time for Tea** in many of our past issues. He is also a favored speaker at homeschool conventions, retreats, and churches across our country.*

Matthew is currently in the 10th grade. He has always been homeschooled. His interests include guns (can you guess?), Bible Study, military history, knife collecting (he has managed his own knife business "Matthew's Cutting Edge" for 4 years), aviation, sailing, and managing his mother's worldwide ministry and bookstore.