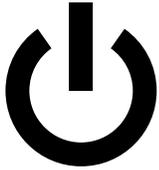




**Speaker:** Clayton & Sharie King    **Title:** A Resolve for Purity

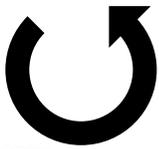
**Summary:** Sexual purity is a fight we win when we put Jesus first.

**Key Verses:** Gen. 2:15-3:24; Eph. 1:12-14; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 John 1:9



**Power Up:** *Take a moment to prepare*

Clayton and Sharie open with a brief history of their marriage and honest confession: They still fight for sexual purity. What's your relational status?



**Replay:** *Take some time to watch*

Note Clayton and Sharie's four points: **1)** Who you're becoming is more important than what you're doing; **2)** We fight *for* purity when we fight *from* purity; **3)** Knowing God's Word builds resolve; **4)** God's unconditional love is not the same as His unconditional acceptance of our behavior.



**Comment:** *Take a moment to talk*

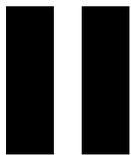
Both Clayton and Sharie stress the importance of good relationships as the best preparation for marriage. **What makes a good relationship? How well do you do at relationships? Where can you grow?**

Sharie often hears people ask, "How far is too far?" **Why is this the wrong question? What is a better question?**

**Read Ephesians 1:11-14. How does this text help us fight for purity?**

Clayton teaches, "When God says 'Don't,' he's saying 'Don't hurt yourself.'" **What does this clarification reveal about God's heart for us in His law? How does this contrast with the belief Adam and Eve held (Gen. 3:6)?**

**What factors in our culture pose the greatest threat to sexual purity? What boundaries can you set to stay resolved against temptation?**



**Pause:** *Take a moment to pray*

Thank God for a new, holy identity as His child. Ask Him for resolve to be pure, stay pure, and stand up again when we fall into sin. Ask Him for clarity in setting boundaries so we can enjoy better relationships.



**Take Action:** *Make it personal*

"When you mess up, you fess up. When you fall down, you get up," Clayton exhorts. Consider asking a friend or leader to be your accountability partner. Talk and pray with them regularly about integrity and purity.

## **Bonus Features:** Additional Notes and Quotes from Clayton and Sharie King

**Fast Facts on the Kings:** 19 years of marriage. Travel together preaching the gospel (5 countries in 2018). 2 teenage boys. Best friends. No close friends of opposite gender.

**Clayton:** “Twenty years into the relationship, we’re still fighting for sexual purity. Just because you get married doesn’t mean you no longer fight for sexual purity.”

**Sharie:** “I encounter a common false feeling: ‘Well, you’re married, so you can have sex whenever you want. So this isn’t an issue for you.’ Purity is an issue... We have to fight to love each other, stay together, be intimate with one another in our marriage.”

“We learned purity for marriage before marriage. It’s hard work.”

For Sharie, marriage was scary – divorced parents with multiple re-marriages

God said to Sharie, “If you learn now what good relationships look like, I’ll show you what a good marriage looks like... It took resolve.”

Points adapted from *I Love You More (Except When I Don’t): Fighting to Keep Jesus First*

### **1. Who you are becoming is more important than what you’re doing; but who you’re becoming is evidenced by what you’re doing.**

**Sharie:** “We often just want to know what the rules are. “How far is too far?” We might do everything except cross the line and justify a series of lesser sins. It misses the heart of the law and lives by the letter.”

**Read [Philippians 2:12-13](#)** – work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

**Sharie:** “We cannot will, in and of ourselves, without God’s help. Rules and checklists are easy; cultivating the inner-life is tough.”

**Isaiah 50:7**

“Sanctification is hard work. So very often we often cheat [the process]... If we think Jesus loves our perfect behavior, we become obsessed with performance... If we think we’re disappointing Jesus, we run from him. He loves us because we’re his.”

**Clayton:** There is no “right person.” Trying to find them is absolutely wrong. Happiness is not found in finding the right person. Holiness is found in *becoming* the right person.”

### **2. We fight for purity when we fight from purity.**

**Clayton:** “I am not pure because I don’t have sex or don’t look at porn. Purity does not happen by trying harder. Sexual temptation is way too strong for us to fight for it by ourselves and try to win. Jesus makes us pure.”

**Read [Ephesians 1:12-14](#).** “It’s the blood of Jesus that makes us pure, not because you were abstinent until your marriage...You are resting in the promise of the gospel.”

"I don't want [sexual] images in my brain, because the image in my brain doesn't go away. I don't want to carry the images into my relationship with my wife."

**Sharie:** "I'm visually-oriented, an artist; things stick... Pornography invites an unwelcomed guest into your mind."

**Read 1 John 1:9.** "Just because you mess up, doesn't mean you give up."

**Clayton:** "When you mess up, you fess up. When you fall down, you get up."

**Sharie:** Everything goes back to Genesis 2-3 → naked and unashamed, belief God's holding out, rebellion, shame, death. "God didn't want them to live forever in their sin. When sin feels so strong, remember what sin does to us. Its consequences separate us from God [John 10:10]."

**Clayton:** "We're going to have to resolve more as the tools to sin increase."

"Our culture has 2 ways of viewing sex: Sex is gross. Sex is god. It's neither. It is good!"

### **3. Know God's Word to build resolve; there's no victory in sexual battle without it.**

**Clayton:** "When God says don't, he's saying "don't hurt yourself." Anytime he says don't, the motivation is his love for us, to protect...It breaks our heavenly Father's heart when we get involved in sexual sin."

"Fight to keep Jesus first. We will be pure when Jesus is the Lord of our lives. He is our primary pursuit. Don't settle for anything less."

### **4. God's unconditional love for us is not the same thing as his unconditional acceptance of our behavior.**

**Clayton:** "God forgives sexual sin. He doesn't condone it."

No relationships with ex-girlfriends on Facebook for Clayton.

"Our culture lies and says: 'You do you. It is what it is. God made you this way.' ... Everyone of us was born a sinner. I was born to sleep around and feast on porn. The Gospel tell us: You must be born again [John 3]."

**Read Galatians 5:13. Sharie:** "When I am sexually pure, I serve my husband... I serve you [Momentum]... and it best serves me."