

REASONS TO MAINTAIN MORAL PURITY

The following is a list developed by a fellow Christian who would review it whenever he felt vulnerable to sexual temptation. He cited the following as reminders of the negative consequences a wrong moral choice could produce.

- Grieving the Lord who redeemed me.
- Dragging His sacred name into the mud.
- One day having to look Jesus, the Righteous Judge, in the face and give an account for my actions.
- Following in the footsteps of those whose immorality forfeited or crippled their lives.
- Inflicting untold hurt on my best friend, my wife.
- Losing my wife's respect and trust.
- Hurting my beloved children.
- Destroying my example and credibility with my children, and nullifying both present and future efforts to teach them to obey God ("*Why listen to a man who betrayed Mom and us?*").
- If my blindness should continue or my wife be unable to forgive, perhaps losing my wife and my children forever.
- Causing shame to my family.
- Losing self-respect.
- Creating a form of guilt awfully hard to shake. Even though God would forgive me, would I forgive myself?
- Forming memories and flashbacks that could plague future intimacy with my wife.
- Forfeiting the effect of years of witnessing to other family members and reinforcing their distrust for Christians. Perhaps contributing to the hardening of their hearts.
- Undermining the faithful example and hard work of other Christians in our community.
- Bringing great pleasure to Satan, the enemy of God and all that is good
- Heaping judgment and endless difficulty on the person with whom I committed adultery.
- Possibly bearing the physical consequences of such diseases as gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, herpes, and AIDS; perhaps infecting my wife, or in the case of AIDS, even causing her death.
- Possibly causing pregnancy, with the personal and financial implications, including a lifelong reminder of my sin.
- Bringing hurt to my friends, especially those I've led to Christ and disciplined.
- Invoking shame and lifelong embarrassment upon myself.