

Revolutionary Love

Heart & Body Covenant



From the world's viewpoint, maintaining sexual purity before marriage seems like cruel and unusual punishment. The messages in our entertainment-driven culture scream at us: "You'd be crazy to marry someone you hadn't slept with first! How else are you going to find out whether or not you are sexually compatible?"

God's Word says just the opposite—it's reckless to use the gift God has given us outside the boundaries he has designed. Our culture often sees sexual intimacy between two unmarried people as a casual act, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Read the verses listed below. Listen to God's perspective on sex, keeping in mind that it has always been *God's* idea. It is his creation—to be used and celebrated in the right way!

You shall not commit adultery. —Exodus 20:14

*Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace,
along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. —2 Timothy 2:22*

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. —Ephesians 1:4

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." —1 Peter 1:14-16

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. —2 Peter 1:5-7

*For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—
has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. —Ephesians 5:5*

*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer
and all the sexually immoral. —Hebrews 13:4*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,
whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. —Philippians 4:8*

*Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you;
but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. —Romans 16:19*

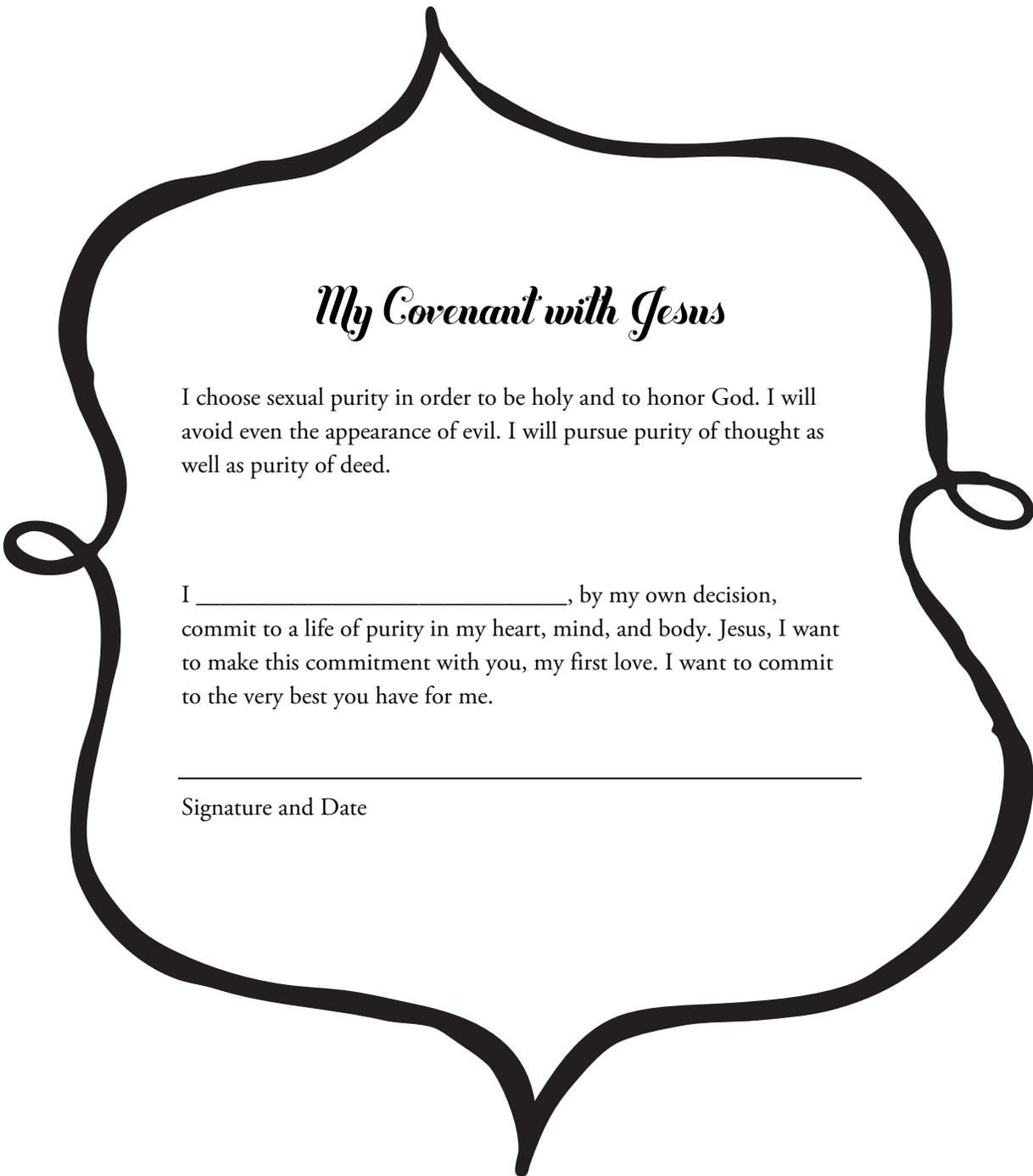
Having sex is easy. A marriage relationship requires much, much more than physical intimacy. There first needs to be spiritual and emotional intimacy to build trust, commitment, and communication. Marriage is a lifelong covenant to love, care for, and nurture your spouse.

God had our best in mind when he gave us strong directives about sexual purity before marriage. There are many benefits to staying pure before marriage. By waiting until marriage . . .

- I please God.
- I build trust and trust is necessary for meaningful intimacy.
- I develop the godly qualities of patience and self-control.
- I show that I care more for the other person than for myself.
- I protect myself with an example to give my children.
- I am protected from some emotional, mental, and physical trauma should the relationship end.
- I develop healthy communication habits and skills.
- I avoid the possibility of unwanted pregnancy.
- I maintain a clear conscience before God and others.
- I increase the anticipation and enjoyment of my wedding night.
- I experience how great it feels to be obedient to God and to his standard of truth.
- I discover more about the other person than just the physical.
- I maintain a witness to a lost world.
- I bring honor to the name of Christ.
- (other answer) _____

Go through that list again. Make a check beside the five benefits that are most important to you. Why are these important to you?

Sexual purity means much more than not having sexual intercourse before marriage. Many couples avoid intercourse but are still sexually intimate. Think about the verses just quoted, then consider making a covenant with Jesus (next page).



My Covenant with Jesus

I choose sexual purity in order to be holy and to honor God. I will avoid even the appearance of evil. I will pursue purity of thought as well as purity of deed.

I _____, by my own decision, commit to a life of purity in my heart, mind, and body. Jesus, I want to make this commitment with you, my first love. I want to commit to the very best you have for me.

Signature and Date