# Purity

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We can find a good definition of “purity” in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, section 2518, Purity refers to the virtue of conforming one's actions to the demands of God's holiness in three areas: charity, chastity and love of truth. While most people aspire readily to charity and love of truth, chastity is much more problematic.

Chastity, meaning no sex outside of marriage, is destroyed by the sin of masturbation. Masturbation is the action of stimulating the sexual organ to achieve sexual orgasm, that is, climax. Masturbation is erroneously taught in all the secular books on sexuality as a normal path to sexual development. Teen-agers are readily misled by this teaching and fail to comprehend why it is profoundly wrong, not only morally, but practically as well. Our goal here is to provide enlightenment on this delicate subject. Nobody likes the word "masturbation." The mere mention of the word tends to induce shame and embarrassment. We shall over look this limitation to properly and directly expound on the subject.

The first problem with masturbation is that every such act is a heartfelt prayer, combined with abundant mental energy, to commit fornication or adultery. The act causes one to focus on one goal - orgasm and sexual fulfillment coupled with attractive images in one's imagination of the opposite sex. Masturbation almost always becomes a habit and so the prayer repeats itslef over and over. Sooner or later, that prayer will be answered, but not by God. The individual will encounter a situation in which a real act of fornication (sexual intercourse outside of marriage) or adultery (sexual intercourse with someone's spouse) presents itself and there will be no moral strength to resist it. Hence, we see that the sin of masturbation soon descends into the even worse sin of fornication or adultery.

The second problem with masturbation is that the habit opens the door to the evil spirit of lust which is a nagging uncontrolled desire for sexual intercourse with anyone who looks sexually appealing. All logic is lost. Rational judgment of the appropriateness of pursuing the opposite sex is totally suspended. Are they eligible and capable for true marriage? Or do the circumstances make marriage impossible? Lust makes no room for truthful considerations. Lust seeks one thing: sexual fulfillment. Lust is a spirit of the devil and the devil's objective is to destroy human beings and even the entire human race. Even the legitimate pursuit of a mate is corrupted by lust, which replaces truthful evaluation of a potential mate based on virtues of sensibility and temperament with an overly heavy focus on physical attributes.

The third problem with masturbation is that once the habit is fully developed with an entrenched spirit of lust, the lust can grow and become mentally overwhelming so that the person is driven to the crime of rape.

Rape may turn out to be too difficult thereby leading the person to seek sexual fulfillment from easier targets - children. This is a horrific evil. The lusting spirit cares only about one thing - sexual satisfaction. So the torrent of physical harm that is imposed on the child and the child's parents is eclipsed while the child is stolen, trafficked and offered to the lusting pedophile in exchange for money, $160 billion dollars a year in the USA alone. Be assured that the lusting pedophile masturbates while he is waiting for his more exciting prey. The masturbation keeps the spirit of lust firmly ensconced. There is no reprieve despite the angst and anxiety and perhaps a futile struggle to attain freedom.

Jesus understood this conundrum very well when he said, "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna" (hell) Mt. 5:30. The point is that the situation is deadly serious. Something must be done, short of cutting your hand off.

Fortunately for us, God provides a solution, through His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We must cooperate with them and make a supreme effort. This is how. The moment that you feel that your sexual passion is overtaking your ability to control it, fall down on your knees and begin to hold an image in your mind of Jesus Christ crucified on the cross. Hold an image of His blood falling from the cross onto all different parts of your body. In that moment, Jesus will say to you "Do you want me or do you want your passion. If your mind turns to your passion He will leave you with your passion. But if you say, "Lord, I want you" and you maintain the image in your mind of Jesus on the cross while you repeat, "take away my passion and let your Holy Spirit abide in me," He will answer that prayer 100% of the time. This may take 5 or ten minutes. Jesus wants to know if you are truly committed. With some struggle, you will successfully expel the spirit of lust from your being and you will be set free.

In modern times, usually in a political context, everybody wants to talk about freedom. True freedom is not political. True freedom is freedom from sin.

Being set free from masturbation and lust allows one to enjoy the freedom of purity and to join the army of Christian believers who have discovered this freedom. Praise the Lord!

To maintain purity, steadfast daily prayer is required. On the evening of the feast of the Most Holy Rosary, October 7, 1957, Mary, Mother of the Church, again appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem in the chapel of the Precious Blood Sisters Convent in Kneipp Springs Sanitarium, near Rome City, Indiana ([Our Lady of America](https://www.ourladyofamerica.org/wordpress/)). Sister Ephrem said, "Her hands were clasped in an attitude of prayer. Her look was serious, though her countenance retained its usual deep serenity. Hanging from her right hand was a blue rosary of a glass-like quality. I was conscious of the fact that what she was about to say to me was not only very grave but of the utmost importance. Our Lady reiterated in a similar manner her first warnings:"

"My beloved daughter, what I am about to tell you concerns in a particular way my children in America. Unless they do penance by mortification and self-denial and thus reform their lives, God will visit them with punishments hitherto unknown to them.

"My child, there will be peace, as has been promised, but not until my children are purified and cleansed from defilement, and clothed thus with the white garment of grace, and are made ready to receive this peace, so long promised and so long held back because of the sins of men.

"My dear children, either you will do as I desire and reform your lives, or God Himself will need to cleanse you in the fires of untold punishment. You must be prepared to receive His great gift of peace. If you will not prepare yourselves, God will Himself be forced to do so in His justice and mercy.

"Making the rosary a family prayer is very pleasing to me. I ask that all families strive to do so. But be careful to say it with great devotion, meditating on each mystery and striving to imitate in your daily lives the virtues depicted therein. Live the mysteries of the rosary as I lived them, and it will become a chain binding you to me forever. They who are found in the circle of my rosary will never be lost. I myself will lead them at death to the throne of my Son, to be eternally united to Him.

"Write these words upon your hearts, my dear children, because of the compassion I have for you in my Immaculate Heart. Oh, if you knew the punishments I am holding back from you by my pleading and intercession on your behalf!

Will you do as I wish at last, my children?"

Clearly, Mary is seeking and hoping for the growth of purity.

To maintain purity, we must deal with the sin of contraception. People often ask, where in the Bible does it say that contraception is a sin? The answer is in Genesis 38, “the Onan Account.” In accord with the law at the time specified in Deuteronomy 25, when Onan’s brother died, Onan was asked to marry his brother’s wife, Tamar, in order to maintain the flow of offspring. He did not have to marry Tamar, but he did. However he was not happy with the idea that the children would pertain to his brother and not him so he did not want any children, During sexual intercourse he withdrew his organ and ejaculated on the ground, thereby denying the possibility for conception. This form of contraception is called “withdrawal” and is still used by some people today. God killed him.

Now, we know that God loves us so how do we interpret this event. Well, there are several instances in history where God kills people. It happened at the flood, where everybody was killed except Noah and his family. It happened at Sodom and Gomorrah which is where we derive the word sodomy, meaning anal intercourse. It happened when the Egyptian chariots were engulfed in the red sea while chasing the Israelites. It happened to King David’s first born son with Bathsheba because David deliberately arranged for Bathsheba’s husband Uriah to be sent to the front lines of battle to be killed so that he could marry beautiful Bathsheba. It happened in the New Testament when Ananias and Saphira made a pretense of donating all of the proceeds from their real estate sale to the Church. Peter was horrified that such corruption was taking place in the early community. He announced that the coffin carriers were arriving to carry them away. In all of these cases of God killing people, the common element is premeditated wickedness. We must be willing to see the sin of contraception with the eyes of God. In the eyes of God, contraception is premeditated wickedness. Indeed God loves us. He teaches with serious consequences to save us from damnation.