

CHASTITY

Pastor Kenneth Robertson, International Anglican Church, Colorado Springs, suggests that “Historically, the church’s teaching on sexuality hinged on the word ‘chastity,’ not ‘purity.’ Purity can be an unhelpful concept because once it’s ‘spoiled,’ you can’t get it back. Chastity, on the other hand, is a virtue. It applies inside marriage as well as without. It is a rich concept that I think gets us farther down the road than purity.” The Chastity Project confirms this by saying, “Chastity is not something that can be lost forever because something shameful happened in your past.”¹ It is in the here and now, how one chooses to think and behave in the present. “Purity is a state or degree of being pure while chastity is the state of abstaining from sexual intercourse before or outside of marriage; avoidance of sexual sins; the quality of being chaste; moral purity.”² To be chaste is to be free from obscenity.³ It means avoiding temptation. Chastity is a state of being, thinking, *and* doing. It includes purity of the mind, soul, and body. In Catholicism, the virtue of chastity is a remedy to the deadly sin of lust. It is a choice of not dwelling nor acting on our lust. It is the “sexual conduct of a person that is deemed praiseworthy and virtuous.”⁴

We can learn something important from the Catholic Church. “In Benedictine spirituality, chastity is defined as having a ‘right relationship’ with people in consideration of God, others, and self. In other words, it is how you love God, others, and yourself. Love is a powerful and often misinterpreted word. It can be used to deceive, or it can unite. Chaste love is pure love; it is love for the sake of love. Chastity is about a relationship of love and respect...The opposite of chastity is promiscuity...The so-called sexual education taught today is encouraging us to yield to our inclinations (appetites) and to become promiscuous. Every form of sex and contraception is explained except chastity. A promiscuous person is not preparing for marriage and a lifetime of commitment. They are preparing for many partners and divorce... Look to Jesus. He is the model of chastity. Chastity involves apprenticeship in self-mastery [I love that!] ...Remember, it is impossible to produce genuine Christ-like chastity by ourselves. A new, converted and transformed heart is required.”⁵

The entire article from which the previous quote comes, is worth the read! It talks about the devastating effects that contraception has on Individuals, relationships, communities, and nations. You will also get a better view of how contraception undermines chastity.

¹ <https://chastityproject.com/qa/is-chastity-the-same-thing-as-virginity/>. Accessed 2/2/2018.

² <https://wikidiff.com/purity/chastity>. Accessed 2/2/2018.

³ <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/chaste>. Accessed 2/2/2018.

⁴ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chastity>. Accessed 2/2/2018.

⁵ <http://www.siohio.org/assets/templates/mycustom/ethereal/files/lesson/holyspirit/Lesson23BAnswers&Opening&ClosingThoughts.pdf>. Accessed 2/2/2018.