

catalystKIDS

Parent Tools

PURITY



cat · a · lyst
kad(ə)ləst

noun

that which evokes a transformative process

kid
/kid/

noun

a child or young person

cat · a · lyst kid
kad(ə)ləst /kid/

noun

a biblically anchored, big dreaming, world-changing child or young person who evokes a transformative process in those around them



A Few Things to Consider

Before we get started, here are just a few suggestions to help prepare yourself for these conversations.

First, use this resource for what it is: a *guide*. There is no “one size fits all” approach to talking about these subjects with children, because there is no “one size fits all” child. You know your child best. ***You know how to best communicate with your child.*** Remember, God chose you and He did so for a reason. Be confident in that truth when talking with your children.

Focus on the relationship behind the rule... love will motivate in ways a law never could

Next, try to avoid saying things like “The Bible says...” when talking about scripture. Instead, say something like “God tells us in His word...”. This may seem like splitting hairs, but phrases like “the Bible tells us...” removes God from the focal point and can set the Bible up as a rulebook in the minds of our children. The most important thing to focus on when communicating scripture to your children is *the motivation behind the commandment*. Always remember, relationships are more important than rules. Sure we need rules, but ***love will motivate behaviors and beliefs in ways a law never could.***

Finally, ***be the example.*** Talking with your kids about prayer? Let them hear when you are praying. Talking to them about the Bible? Let them “catch” you studying God’s word. It can be difficult if we let it be, but ***the more they see these disciplines in us, the more they will begin to show up in them.***

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:7

pu·ri·ty
/'pyʊrədē/

noun

freedom from adulteration or
contamination.

freedom from immorality, especially
of a sexual nature.



Defining the Context

When we discuss purity we may easily fall back on the default context of physical or sexual purity. It *is* a major component of purity, however, it isn't the *only* component of purity. Discussing purity with our children should cover purity in all areas of life, not just physical intimacy.

With that in mind, there is no need to rush into discussing certain areas of purity with your children. A conversation with your 5 year old centering on abstinence from sex would be unnecessary *at that age*, but will be *critical* later on as that child grows and matures.

As shown in the definition, purity means freedom from adulteration, contamination and immorality. Adulteration and contamination occur when external influences affect our actions and decisions. Immorality is an internal choice to reject the accepted standards of behavior, in other words, to *knowingly* make a bad choice.

*Above all else,
guard your heart,
for everything you
do flows from it.*

Proverbs 4:23

*Create in me a pure
heart, O God, and
renew a steadfast
spirit within me.*

Psalms 51:10

With this understanding it is clear purity extends far beyond sexual purity into all areas of our lives and relationships. As a result, talking to your kids about purity can be worked into almost any situation, especially in discipline. Whether the necessary discipline is due to their internal, conscious, bad choice (immorality), or a response to a negative, external influence (adulteration/contamination), The need for purity in the situation can be addressed as part of correcting the behavior. As your child gets

older, the discussion on purity will then migrate toward their decisions in regard to dating relationships.

It Starts With the Heart

At the core, purity is a heart issue. God's tells us in His Word to *guard our heart* because *everything* we do finds its roots in our heart. We can understand how our actions flow from what we feel in our hearts, but how do we *guard our hearts*, and just as importantly, how do we teach our kids to guard *theirs*?

The first way to guard our hearts is to put the correct things into it. In

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:9-11

Psalm 119 David states this plainly: he seeks God with all his heart and keeps God's Word "hidden" in his heart.

One of the best things you can do for your child is to help them cultivate a love for God and His Word from a young age. The more they are able to understand that God's Word is applicable to their lives, that it contains wisdom and guidance for making good decisions, the more they will come to trust in God and His word, and rely upon Him for help in staying on the "path of purity" as David refers to it.

Another way we help teach our children to guard their hearts is by praying both for and with them. Set the example for them in prayer, show them how to open up to God and ask for the wisdom, guidance, strength and courage to remain pure in heart. They should also understand that prayer is one of the most critical means by which we develop our relationship with God, seeking Him

with all our hearts (see Parent Tool on Prayer).

Pray for them to be open to the ways God will guide them in their own relationship with Him, and the ways He will provide guidance in guarding their hearts.

Finally, we guard our hearts, keeping them from being adulterated or contaminated by being careful about what we allow *into* our hearts. Paul wrote to the Philippians and reminded them to think about the things which were, among other virtues, *pure*. If we follow this example, if we allow things which are pure into our hearts, our hearts will be more pure than if we were to allow impure things into our hearts. The same logic applies to our children.

Help your children find to find God in the everyday things around them. An example of this would be children's movies.



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

Just about every kid's movie has a good guy and a villain. As you watch one of these movies with your child, help them to see Biblical lessons in the different character's choices and actions. This is a way of getting *pure* truth into their hearts through an everyday, secular thing like a movie.

How Young is Too Young?

As I stated before, you wouldn't have a conversation with a very young child about sexual purity, but there are always opportunities to discuss the virtue of purity with your children of any age. You best know your child and the experiences they have had. You will be the best person to determine when the right time is to begin that aspect of the discussion on purity.

However, teaching your child about the virtue of purity from an early age, and helping them to apply that virtue in their relationships will make that conversation much easier. They will already have a firm grasp on the heart issue of purity and will have a much better understanding of how to guard their hearts from adulteration, contamination and immorality.

Not only that, but as they learn to make pure choices they will serve as an example to those around them. Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy and encouraged him to set an example for others in the things he talked about, in how he behaved, treated others, responded to God and in *purity*. We want our children to live by these virtues and to be an example of these virtues to others. In short, we want our child to be a Catalyst Kid who will set the example for their friends in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in *purity*.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Why Provide These Tools?

We are providing these tools because we believe in you and because we need you.

God sovereignly chose **you** as the parent of your kid. **God believes in you, so we believe in you.** By equipping you with some simple resources you can use in the difficult discussions that come up, we want you to feel confident in your role as the primary spiritual influence in your kids lives.

It is easy to think of the Kid's Pastor, or some other Kid's Leader as the person with the most spiritual influence in your kids lives, but those people are only around your kids for a couple hours every week. You are the ones that are doing life with your kids and **you have more impact on their spiritual development than anyone else ever could.** We want to partner with you in raising a generation of CATALYST KIDS!

... so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands...Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:1-7



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