



# How to Challenge Your Child Toward Purity



Purity is an issue of the heart that affects so many parts of life. We want to train our children to be pure for a higher purpose. Share an object lesson. Choose two goblets (or clear drinking glasses). Fill one with mud, trash, or anything gross you can think of and keep the other one sparkling clean. Set both glasses in front of your child and ask which one he/she would like to use. Then pour them some water in the clean glass. Read 2 Timothy 2:20-22. Some questions to ask: *What does it mean to be honorable/dishonorable? What does it mean to be set apart for a special purpose? How can we pursue right things?* Challenge your child to be set apart for God's good purpose.

## What are some practical ways to do that?

**Encourage modesty.** Dress your daughter appropriately even when she is young. (If you don't want your teenager to wear a bikini, don't start it when she is a toddler.) There is such a push today for girls to look and dress older, but resist that. Teach your boys modesty, also. Insist that your boys cover up as well. (If company is present, wear shirt and bottoms.) Dressing modestly is a decision to recognize that their bodies are God's temple and how they dress and act should reflect that they are a child of God. (1 Corinthians 6:19)

## **Protect your child (as much as possible) from sexual images.**

Set up parental controls and content filtering on computers, tablets, phones, and other gadgets. Though we can't completely make the internet kid-safe, we can at least make it harder to access some sites. According to Focus on the Family, the average age of exposure to pornography is now eight years old. Also, talk about what to do when someone else offers to show them sexual pictures. That is why it is so important to have an ongoing "conversation" about sex and purity with our children.

**Help them set boundaries.** Teach them to guard their eyes and mind. Share an object lesson. Show them a photo album and explain that their mind is a little like that. The pictures that they put in their mind are there for good. The best plan is to never put inappropriate pictures in their mind. Teach your boys to look away when someone isn't wearing enough clothes. Teach them appropriate words and actions in different situations.



**Help them choose good friends.** Ask each child to find a partner and link arms but facing opposite directions. Then instruct them to walk forward. Was it hard to get to your destination linked with someone who was going a different direction? Linking up with friends who believe like we do can help us both to do what is right (2 Corinthians 6:14).

