

The Pledge

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When you think of the word pure many things may come to mind. One of the most iconic Christian figures who represents purity in the bible Virgin Mary. But, how many people really abide to abstinence until marriage?

For some people college is the ultimate freedom or the time to be successful and strive for their life long goals, and most of all "the experience".

"You make a lot of decisions in life, most of them you think you can keep until you've been exposed to what seems to be the forbidden fruit," said Kim McIntyre, a Fayetteville State University student. "The world that we live in is sin."

This is why the purity pledge is an interesting phenomenon. The purity pledge, also known as the virginity pledge or vow of abstinence, is a personal pledge to not indulge in the lustful life nor taint or corrupt their values. Those who take the purity pledge see life from a biblical perspective.

"Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"--but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body," according to Corinthians 6:13.

"My decision of purity was based off of religious and personal reasons," said Cheyenne McDonald a student at Campbell University. "I noticed in high school how sex was "the thing" to do, but I never really felt up to it and I didn't force myself or allow anyone else to [pressure me]."

There are many different forms of purity pledges people take, the Purity Vow, the Purity Pledge, the Purity Promise and the Dating Contract. All of which start with a portion of the bible verse from Psalm 25:21 "Because I'm worth waiting for.."

The Purity Vow begins by saying "I have acknowledged that God has made me in His image, and desires for me to stay pure until I wed the person He has chosen for me".

"My reasons are deeper than just one," McDonald said. "I'm not ready to have sex, therefore I'm not going to force myself to just for a guy. True love does wait! Also, people fail to realize that when they have sex, it's more than just sex. You are becoming one with that person. That's why it's important to wait until marriage."

The Purity Promise starts with the same "I acknowledge" phrase then adds, "God has made me in His image, precious in His sight, and has made my

body to be His temple. I believe that God has saved me from my sin, and it is my desire to please him by living a life of purity."

When people commit to the Dating Contract it states that, "I acknowledge that my parents and I have agreed on a code of dating conduct and that I will behave in accordance to those guidelines while dating and attending social activities. I also understand that I am responsible for my own actions and accountable to myself and my parents for all that I do."

Lastly there is the Purity Pledge which says, "My parents have defined the integrity from which I chose to live my life and I pledge this day to honor their beliefs and work for the goals set for my life".

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unwanted Pregnancy surveyed young Christian adults and concluded that 80 percent of them are having sex outside of marriage, even those who did make a vow to wait. So where does the true meaning of love lie?

"The way I feel towards a virgin girl I respect them more for their beliefs and I believe that I would be more focused on us, (like me and her) in the relationship instead of lust-ing over each other and being

together for the wrong reasons so the relationship would last longer and be more pure," said Marquell Carroll, a student at Fayetteville Technical Community College.

Although there is the perception that true love can wait, it doesn't always wait for long. There can be many conflicts found with vowing to take a life of purity.

For instance what is a person to do when a couples values begin to cause conflict in their relationship? Some may go into a relationship with the same idea of what they plan to get out of it, then slowly lose interest and need physical ties to their significant other instead of just an emotional connection.

"I have had sex [before] and wouldn't be able to last," Carroll said. "I also believe when having sex it brings the two people closer physically and mentally."

The dilemma of being pure consists of religious values versus personal morals and choices. The bible counts premarital sex as an unforeseen act of unfaithfulness to God. However, what about the people who have sex before marriage and then wed? Furthermore, what about the people who wait and enter into a binding marriage to find out the person they chose to lay with for the rest of their life is not the one for them?