



Elizabeth Ministry International™

FREEDOM THROUGH CHASTE LIVING

One young woman, upon graduating from High School was thanked by her mother for being a good, trustworthy daughter, one who consistently lived within wholesome boundaries, in her day to day life and in her relationships with her friends and potential boyfriends.

She replied to her mother, "There was freedom when I lived within the boundaries." "What do you mean?" her mother asked. "When I lived within the boundaries, you and Dad almost always said 'yes' when I asked to do something," she simply stated with confidence.

Did she know at the time that she was also following God's Word, His intent for our lives? Psalm 119, verse 45, says:

"I will live in perfect freedom, because I try to obey your teachings." (NIV)

What does God teach regarding our bodies, our sexual relationships? It is clear in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NIV) that we are to:

"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

God is a loving Father to us all. His boundaries are not intended to restrict us, punish us, or limit our freedoms. He knows how we are made. He knows what will harm us. So he gives us boundaries to give us freedom.

As the young daughter told her mother, there is freedom when living within the boundaries. Following God's plan for our sexuality and in our relationships provides freedom from sexually transmitted diseases, some of which are incurable, freedom from unplanned pregnancies, freedom from worry, secrecy and deceit, and freedom from emotional scars resulting from broken, immature, relationships.

On the joyous side of freedom, living within God's boundaries enables one to fully experience God's intended bond within marriage, a bond that is filled with love for each other coupled with intimate discovery.

Chaste living provides freedom, a sense of wholeness, self-confidence, a gift that God has provided to us to be embraced in our childhood, as we enter puberty, throughout our teen years and for our entire lives. Chaste living enables each of us to bring to our marriages a personal wholeness, a self without blemish. Chaste living enables us to avoid personal harm. Chaste living draws us closer to God.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8 (NIV)