



## PURITY is the need of the HOUR!

At 3 am in the morning, I had just caught two boys red handed, engaged in something impure. I was 20 years old and working as an assistant warden in a school hostel. I was asleep in one of the classrooms. Of course, I had a room of my own. But, the previous night was very hot and humid. So, I had chosen to sleep in one of the classrooms instead of my own room. I had woken up early this morning and walked into one of the boys' dormitories. Unknowingly, I had walked right into the middle of something. **One of them was abusing the other.** I was shocked and so were they. That evening I began counselling them. They cried and they wept. They knew it was wrong and impure. If you remember, I understood these kids quite well, I had been there, gone through that and had learnt a few lessons myself. So, this is the first instance – What could we learn from this?



The first basic truth to absorb – When right relationships fail and fall, fake connections are created in their places. These fake connections then lead to aberrations.

Let me at this point define two things.



What do I mean by 'Fake Connections'? — *A relationship that is superficial and there is no authenticity and depth.*

What is an Aberration?— *A deviation from what is proper or original by design. In other words, it is a departure from what is normal, usual, or expected, typically an unwelcome one.*

When an aberration begins, it seems the right thing to do and it is satisfying. But the truth is that the aberration leads us far, very far from the original design. Over a period of time, we become unable to enjoy the real original design of love, care, joy and hope. It is then too late. **Most people in these situations come to a point where they begin to rationalize reason and justify their lifestyle of aberration.** Eventually people around them are unable to understand them, their reasons or their behaviour. So, they find it convenient to build walls around their lives, close the world out and lead lives pathetically and hypocritically with no real sense of worth, identity and joy. They might say that they have an identity, but if they look deep inside, they will find none.

I realize the lines above are heavy. But I will leave it at this angle. We must understand that if we move away from the original design of God, then aberrations are almost certain and these will mould us into a duplicate design. *Over a period of time, we begin to believe that the duplicate was in fact meant to be the original design. This, my dear friend, is more pathetic than the aberration itself.*

Let's look into our second instance.

I was ministering in a school over a few days. On an evening I set out on a walk by myself. A little along the way, I met this 14 year old boy. He was waiting for me. He had recognized me and wanted to speak with me. **I sat down beside him and he began to weep. I put my arm around him and he began to speak.** He was an addict. Oddly though, he was addicted to 'whitener correction fluid'. Half of his lungs were already damaged.



This is the second instance – What could we learn from this?

As I quizzed him for details, he slowly and painfully bared his heart. He went on to say that it was on one evening when he had been hanging out with his friends and they had urged him to try out the substance, that he had first tried the fluid. From then on, he had been fixed to it. **Did you notice his words? 'One Evening'.**

If you were to ask me, I am surely not surprised. I have come across a number of teens and youth who have gotten into habits and wrong acts of impurity in just 'one evening', 'one visit', 'one hangout', 'one group study', 'one secret call'. Many a times, all it takes is 'JUST ONE'. We

grossly underestimate the power, the hold or the trap of 'JUST ONE'. **If we are alert and check that ONE incident, then the temptation is almost beaten. Many think that this is just 'ONE'. But they often do not realize that this 'ONE' might lead them to 'MANY'.**

*So be careful of that ONE.*

Remember, when you take cold coal in your hands and hold it close to your clothes you are wearing, it will not burn you. But, it will stain you. Sometimes a stain hurts more than a burn. When you are burnt, those around may know of it, you may quickly find an ointment and apply it. You may even heal soon. But when a stain occurs, you try to rub it off hoping it will disappear, but soon find that it has only gone on and made a bigger mess. Watch out!

Our third and last instance!

This happened a week ago. For some time, I had been in talks with these friends of mine, concerning a project. They were keen to help us buy a piece of land to start the project. They were enthusiastic and eager to send us a very large amount of money last week. ***But, the project that had been discussed was not taking off as expected. It had come upon a few troubles at this side, whereas, the people on the other end were unaware of these problems.*** They presumed that things were moving as planned. I knew first hand of the issues that we were facing and was apprehensive regarding the purchase of the land.

But, let me be honest here. I knew that a large amount of money was to come through, toward the purchase of the land. I also knew that no matter how much ever money was involved, I have strong accountability and an internal system of checks in place. These would make sure that the funds would never be misused. So, please bear in mind that although there was no window for swipe of funds, deep down **I knew I had to go one step further and set a pure standard. So, what was I needed to do?**

I had a brief chat with one of my mentors and then I immediately called these friends, informed them of the situation and stopped the funds from being transferred to us. ***As soon as it was done, I knew I had done the right thing. I felt amazing peace. It was not a huge deal, but what was more important was that I continue to be alert in setting up those right pure standards in my life.***

So, what do we learn?

**We can very well hit the basic markers or standards and be satisfied with that. But, we can do more, go beyond that.** In this world where standards are compromised and wrong standards are made to look right, we need to set up higher standards. It will be like a whiff of fresh air, especially in a place like India, where corruption dances at all corners. If one of us determines to stand strong and keep oneself pure, then slowly but steadily, he or she will begin to impact others and persuade them toward this standard of purity. This is the need of the hour.

Just one statement – Let us examine as we close this series

**“If you look at wrong as wrong, then wrong is wrong. If you do not look at wrong as wrong, then wrong is not wrong”.** This ideology and philosophy will not stand in the long run. There must to be absolute standards of purity. If we begin to customize or dilute these standards to suit our own needs, wishes, desires, habits, longings, comforts etc, then over a period of time we will see walls crumbling down all around us. And then, it becomes too messy to build them up.

Remember, **PURITY is SECURITY!**