

We are here for you and your family. Let us know if we can ever do anything for you.



Justin = 256.744.3355

Summer = 256.744.3427

Justin@AlbertvilleFBC.org

AlbertvilleFBC.org/Students.php

309 East Main Street

Albertville, AL 35950



Parent's Guide To Purity 2016

How to help your students
pursue a life of purity

How can you as a parent help guide your student to continue to pursue the path of purity?

1. Know The Markers:

The foundation for creating a culture of purity is the child's decision to follow Christ as personal Lord and Savior. Beyond that, life markers represent building blocks for creating a culture of purity. We have identified 18 markers that provide parents (with the support and encouragement of church leaders) opportunities to lead their children toward a lifelong commitment to purity. These will be discussed in detail throughout this book, but a high-level view of each marker follows.

Childhood

1. Birth and Infancy: At birth children start gaining awareness of their personhood. A child's positive self-identity is directly related to his ability to accept who he is. A young child builds trust with parents and caregivers.

2. Physical Curiosity/Potty Training: As children grow, they begin exploring their bodies and enjoy discovering new things. They constantly acquire information and actively listen to what they are being told about their bodies.

3. Starting School: In the early school years, children have an aversion to the opposite sex. School also begins their experience of gaining freedom to make choices — away from parents' constant care.

4. Sexual/Social Development: Older children begin to recognize physical changes in themselves and others. Interacting with the

opposite sex becomes more common. They establish an awareness of body image. Initial sexual experimentation can begin to occur.

5. "The Talk": During the latter years of childhood, a child begins to question issues related to sexuality. Significant body changes, conversations with peers, and exposure to sexual material generate many questions.

Younger Youth

6. Puberty: Puberty is the point at which students are physically able to act upon sexual desire or temptation. Students begin to face pressure to be sexually active.

7. 13th birthday: Around the 13th birthday, teens start seeing their peers and others act out sexually. They need to recognize the value of purity against the backdrop of an amoral culture.

8. Entering the youth group: Peer influence becomes a major factor in a teen's decision making and her search for acceptance. They could be exposed to pornography, "locker room talk," and impure relationships. This can happen both inside and outside the student ministry.

9. Purity ceremony: This public commitment to purity helps students maintain strength and motivation to remain pure. Students need the accountability and encouragement that results from the public support offered at this event. What happens before and after the ceremony should challenge both teens and parents to make a lifelong commitment to purity.

Older Youth

10. Driver's License: Getting a driver's license allows students to go places they never could have gone and do things they never could

have done. Wise parents set boundaries, but they cannot be with their teenagers every moment of every day. Teens are left to make decisions, use proper discernment, and display trustworthiness.

11. Dating: When teens begin “going out,” they also begin to face new temptations. What they’ve been seeing in the media and hearing from friends comes to life. They need to know how to have a relationship with a person of the opposite gender that doesn’t compromise their commitment to purity.

12. Exclusively Dating: This is where teens begin to focus on dating only one person, but that level of commitment also increases the likelihood of sexual activity. The dynamics of the relationship, combined with normal physical development, increase the challenge to make wise, biblical decisions. Teens need to rely on a firm commitment to purity and accountability.

13. Prom/Banquet/Formal: This major social event leads many teens to make poor decisions — either deliberately or in the heat of the moment. Many teens see this as a “coming out” in which they dress and try to act more mature than they actually are.

14. High School Graduation: Children operate under the authority of their parents for nearly two decades. Graduation represents a shift to freedom for the student and “letting go” for the parents.

Young Adult

15. College: College students face situations that test their commitment to purity. They struggle with defining their core values and how those beliefs will be integrated into daily life.

16. Singleness: Singleness is not just an option for many young adults, it’s their place in life. Maintaining purity in a society that expects

everyone to be sexually active requires a deep commitment to God’s plan.

17. Engagement: Many view engagement as “basically married,” leading to a justification for premarital sex. A commitment to sexual purity provides accountability during this time.

18. Marriage: Marriage is a life-long covenant entered at the wedding ceremony. The husband and wife should be committed to one another and God to live purely in thought and action.

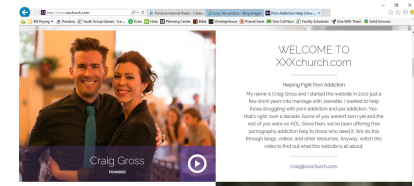
(Source = Path of Purity: A Family Guide, LifeWay, 2010)

2. Know Your Resources:

Here’s a brief guide to some online, book, app, and counseling resources we would highly recommend for you as parents:

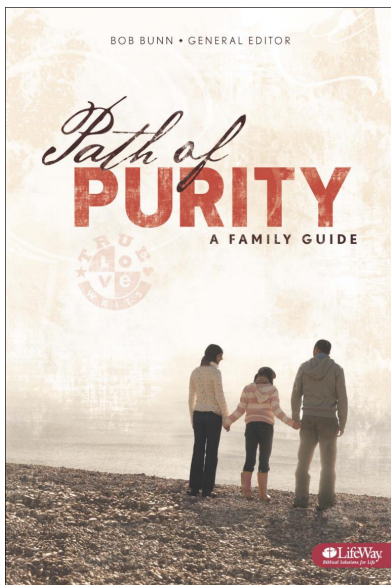
Online Resources

- xxxchurch.com = a ministry specifically about helping students and adults fight the battle of pornography
- thinkuknow.com = a website with stats and resources to help deal with bullying (especially cyber-bullying)
- shelleylubben.com = this is a former porn star who desires to help guys and girls fight against pornography
- covenanteyes.com = provides tips and software to assist with internet accountability & filtering for the whole family
- focusonthefamily.com/parenting = includes great articles and resources for raising children (of any age) in a godly home environment



Book Resources

We have several great books for parents in our Student Ministry library if you are ever looking for info on a specific topic. But, as far as a complete resource guide about purity, we highly recommend “Path of Purity: A Family Guide” (LifeWay.com, \$12.95)



“Conversations and direction about pure living should start early in a child’s life and carry into adulthood. This resource for parents outlines the new TLW 3.0 emphasis upon purity as a lifetime process. Revisit True Love Waits, understand the current state of affairs regarding purity and sexual abstinence and be introduced to TLW 3.0 with The Path. Examine purity markers for each stage of life from childhood to young adulthood and address detours that sidetrack kids, their parental role, and how to partner

with the Church as they encourage their children toward a life of purity. Parents will be encouraged and equipped to guide their children all along this path of purity.”

Phone / Tablet App Resources

Know the details of any new movie, show, music, or video game your students may be watching with the “[Plugged In](#)” app brought to you by Focus on the Family. And, it’s free!



Christian Counseling Resources

Of course, Justin and Summer are always available to counsel privately with you and/or your students at any time. If you wish to look further into some great Christian counseling in our area, we highly recommend the counselors at the following center:

[Dayspring Center for Christian Counseling](#)

123 Sand Mountain Drive NW, Albertville, AL 35950

256-878-3809 (Terry Nelson or Kristy Walker)

3. Know What’s Going On In Your Home:

Oftentimes we speak with families who don’t know how to connect with their students or don’t even know what they are watching and listening to at home. Here’s a few suggestions:

- Check your Netflix “recently watched” category often to know what your students are watching
- Download the “Plugged In” app to double-check the movies your students want to see or the music they want to download
- Know who your students are hanging out with (feel free to ask if we know anything about certain students or if we know those families they are associating with)
- Open the conversation... if you let your student know you care, they will care that you know what’s going on in their lives, even related to their struggle with purity

4. Know You're Not Alone:

Last, but not least, we want to make sure you know that we are here for you and your family whenever you need us. Please seek to be involved in your student's life, media, and struggles with purity. Don't make the mistake of assuming they are a "good kid" and never provide means of accountability for any struggle they may face, especially at this pivotal age.

It takes a village, and our student ministry is made up of many families like yours, seeking to guide their children in the best way possible. So, why not connect with those families?

Feel free to call us anytime if we can ever minister more specifically to your family. We're all in this together.

And, even if they struggle or stray in the days or years ahead, just keep pouring God's Word and principles in their hearts as much as possible.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6, NIV)

If you haven't done so recently, please stop by our newly updated "Parent Page" put together by our student ministry. Visit AlbertvilleFBC.org/Students.php and click the blue "Parent Page" link today.

