

Proverbs 15:26

The Lord detests the THOUGHTS of the wicked, but those of the pure are pleasing to him.

PURITY is not a product of external rituals or [even] self denial.

PURITY is clean **thoughts** and **motives** and is **expressed** by works/actions that are **innocent**, **sincere**, and **godly**.

The Lord detests men of perverse HEART, but he delights in those whose ways are blameless. (11:20)

Proverbs 15:27

A greedy man brings trouble to his family but he who HATES BRIBES will live.

A pure heart seeks neither to create weakness nor exploit weakness in others. A pure heart HATES and OPPOSES all forms of corruption, understanding their source to be the prince of darkness, the Deceiver.

Proverbs 16:6

Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the Lord a man AVOIDS evil.

I can seek to <u>compensate</u> ("atone") for evil. Purity <u>avoids</u> evil.

To do what is right and just is MORE ACCEPTABLE to the Lord than sacrifice. (21:3)

Reminder: While the New Testament explains that the blood of Christ atoned for all sins and purifies each person who accepts it, we are not therefore excused from seeking to make atonement or amends for personal sins. This is Christianity 101. (Matthew 5:23-24)

God designed/ordained sex as a symbol or expression of "commitment" and "unity". (Gen. 2:24) This gives it, therefore, in marriage, a <u>purity</u>. (Hebrews 13:4)

Apart from the protective bond of marriage, sex is impure (Eph. 5:3) and defiling (Heb. 12:15-16). So, PURITY implies determination and discipline to "avoid sexual immorality".

Proverbs 30:11-12

There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers; those who are PURE IN THEIR OWN EYES yet are not cleansed of their filth.

My opinion of my own self cannot be objective. I need help!

PURITY includes the <u>acceptance</u> of God's standards/nature as the <u>goal</u> of my thoughts and actions.