

## ***Making a Purity Covenant: Seven Practical Commitments***

### **I. PREPARING FOR THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- A. The Lord will visit His Church with a spirit of glory. This is a promise with a warning. When Jesus releases more of His manifest presence, then He requires more agreement with His heart.
- B. The church in Pergamos neglected to confront immorality in some of their ministries. The sword of Jesus' mouth refers to His power being released by His commands. If we obey His Word, it will be as a sword that liberates us. If we reject it, it will be as a sword that troubles us.  
*<sup>13</sup> You hold fast to My name...<sup>14</sup> I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught...Israel to...commit sexual immorality...<sup>16</sup> Repent, or I will come to you...and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. (Rev. 2:13-16)*
- C. Immorality is all sexual activity outside of marriage (physical, verbal, technological). It grieves God's heart, injures our hearts and family, and grants Satan legal doors of access to our lives.
- D. False teaching on grace makes people comfortable in their compromise, instead of giving them confidence to pursue purity, knowing that it is attainable and that God enjoys us in the process.
- E. The church of Thyatira did not take a firm stand against immorality in their spiritual family.  
*<sup>19</sup> I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience [endurance]...<sup>20</sup> I have a few things against you, because you allow [tolerate, NIV] that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess...to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality... (Rev. 2:19-20)*
- F. On March 24, 2008, the IHOP–KC family made a covenant before God to tenderly, consistently, and comprehensively resist all forms of immorality. We do not have to choose between zeal for purity and God's tender mercy. We can have both. Today, we will renew that covenant.
- G. If we voluntarily judge ourselves, then we will not be judged or disciplined by the Lord.  
*<sup>30</sup> For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. <sup>31</sup> If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged [by the Lord]. <sup>32</sup> When we are judged, we are chastened [disciplined] by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. (1 Cor. 11:30-32)*
- H. We can reverse God's judgment or discipline by repenting of compromises.  
*<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are...a broken and a contrite heart...God will not despise. (Ps. 51:17)*  
*<sup>22</sup> His compassions fail not. <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning. (Lam. 3:22-23)*
- I. Jesus promised to make a way of escape for us, both as a movement and as individuals.  
*<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Cor. 10:13)*

II. SEVEN PERSONAL COMMITMENTS BEFORE THE LORD (6 MONTH COMMITMENT)

<sup>16</sup> **Confess your trespasses to one another** [to a trusted friend] ...**that you may be healed.** (Jas. 5:16)

A. **Commitment #1:** I commit to refuse to **speak in a way that promotes or jokes about immorality.** If I do speak in this way, I will confess to those I spoke to that my words were inappropriate.

B. **Commitment #2:** I commit to **wear modest clothing** that in no way promotes sensuality by being too revealing (too tight, too short, etc.). If I do, I will confess it to my trusted friend.

C. **Commitment #3:** I commit to confess to the same friend each time **I view pornography or have sexual contact** with someone (outside my marriage). I commit to **register with accountability software.** These programs track our internet activity and send an email to the friend we choose. See: [www.integrity.com](http://www.integrity.com) (free); [www.accountable2you.com](http://www.accountable2you.com) (free) and [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com).

D. **Commitment #4:** I commit to hold any confession of my friend's failure in **strict confidentiality.** If I do speak it to another, I commit to confess it to my friend (who confessed their sin to me).

E. **Commitment #5:** If I "repeatedly" stumble in immorality, I will **confess to the leadership** and then **accept the boundaries and practical steps** they give me to pursue my emotional healing.

F. **Commitment #6:** I commit to **share with the leadership** if my friend "repeatedly" stumbles in immorality. I will first tell my friend **before** sharing with a leader, to convince him to go with me. I refuse to yield to "unsanctified mercy" that allows sin to increase in my friend's life.

<sup>15</sup> **If your brother sins...tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.** <sup>16</sup> **If he will not hear, take with you one or two more...** (Mt. 18:15-16)

G. **Commitment #7** (for leaders): I commit to **follow through on the process** of bringing those who "continue" in sin to the appropriate discipline and then to seek their healing and restoration.

<sup>20</sup> **Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all...** (1 Tim. 5:20, NAS)

<sup>1</sup> **If a man is overtaken in any trespass...restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness...** (Gal. 6:1)

H. We will not publicly expose anyone's sin if they will repent (discontinue the sinful behavior). There are many levels of discipline that do not require public exposure of one's sin.

<sup>8</sup> **Above all things have fervent love...for love will cover a multitude of sins.** (1 Pet. 4:8)

<sup>9</sup> **He who covers a transgression seeks love...** (Prov. 17:9)

I. Concerning one who refused to repent of immorality, Paul commanded the leaders to deliver him over to Satan (lift God's protection allowing Satan to make him sick) to wake him up spiritually.

<sup>4</sup> **In the name of our Lord...when you are gathered together...<sup>5</sup> deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh** [sickness] **that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.** (1 Cor. 5:4-5)