

TEENS ASK: If you are raped, can you still be pure?

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THE BIG IDEA:

Purity is a matter of the heart.

It is possible for a rape victim to be considered pure; however, this may not always be the case. There are instances when the rape victim may hold some of the responsibility for what happened to them. This never negates that rape is sin, but women who dress or behave immorally, attracting the wrong attention and the wrong guys, are making themselves vulnerable targets to perverted men. In this scenario, the woman is in sin which has led to a sinful action against them. There is no purity in such a case.

On the reverse side, many women who are raped are definite victims. Young girls and upright women would fall into this category. In the Old Testament, rape is considered to be so serious a sin that God commanded the death sentence for any man who rapes a woman (Deuteronomy 22:25-27). In this case, it is very clear that the victim of rape is just that: *a victim*. The girl or woman was sinned against and has experienced one of the worst tragedies that a person can suffer.

Biologically speaking, the rape victim has lost their virginity. However, in the eyes of God, the innocent rape victim is still pure, since they had their purity stolen from them, and they did not give it away freely. However, they carry deep scars and a broken spirit.

Purity is determined by the condition of the heart. If a woman's heart is full of sinful desires and she is sexually enticing others, she is neither pure, nor completely innocent. The woman who was simply overtaken by an unknown sexual prowler, however, had a pure heart and is completely innocent.

If you have been raped and have never told anyone, I strongly advise that you seek out someone you trust to talk to. In our church, you can approach any elder or deacon to seek help.

As a word of encouragement, Jesus alone can bring healing and restoration to broken hearts. He can restore your joy and give you back your dignity. Jesus is a healer who cares for the oppressed. Pray to Jesus today for restoration and renewing in your spirit. He will answer your prayers.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. If purity is a matter of the heart, do I consider myself sexually pure?