

## Desiring “Life to the Full”

### A Commitment to Sexual Purity

*(Invite youth to stand in the front)*

In the gospel according to St. John, Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Over the past month or so, many of the high school youth here at Hope have attended our Sunday evening “youth group” programs and we have talked about our identity in Christ, the messages of mainstream media and God’s desire for us to live lives that are full and rewarding. Throughout all of this we have discussed the reality of being created as sexual beings. We recognize that our sexuality is a tremendous gift from God and also a common area for temptation, risk and heart-ache.

These youth who you see in front of you have decided to listen to the message of God, to make sexual purity a high priority in their lives. They are here today because they take this commitment seriously and recognize that they will need your prayers and encouragement. A pledge to make sexual purity a priority is not simply a promise to abstain from sexual intercourse until marriage, though that is one part. A pledge toward a life of sexual purity involves far more than the simple actions a person takes, it’s a commitment to pursue purity in all aspects of life; what we say, what we look at, what we think about and how we act.

None of us are without blame in these areas. All of us are broken and all of us have fallen short of what God has called us to. Some of these youth in front of you have made decisions regarding their sexuality that they have come to regret. We all have regrets and we all find comfort in the grace made available to us in Christ. Today these youth take advantage of the opportunity available to all of us, to set the past behind them and to look ahead toward their calling in Christ. Recognizing that God’s best for our lives is far more than anything we could ask or imagine, these youth stand before you today pledging to pursue lives of sexual purity before God.

*(To you the youth)*

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

Do you intend, from this day forward, led by the guidance and counsel of the Holy Spirit to pursue sexual purity in all aspects of your life?

**I do, and I ask God to help me.**

Do you intend to abstain from sexual relationships until such time as you may commit yourself to another through the covenant of Christian marriage?

**I do, and I ask God to help me.**

*(Invite the parents to stand)*

Do you, the parents of these young people, pledge to encourage them with your words and uphold them in your prayers that they may be faithful to the commitments they have made today?

**We do, and we ask God to help us.**

*(Invite the parents to come forward and invite the congregation to stand)*

To you, the people of Hope Lutheran, will you commit to praying for these young people and for their families that they may avoid sexual temptations in their lives and that the full measure of God's blessing may be realized in each of their lives to the glory of God?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*(Invite youth to kneel, parents to lay hands on them, and congregation to extend hand)*

Let us pray...

Father God, creator of all, giver of every good and perfect gift, we come before you today and we ask you to have your way in our lives. Whatever things are true, whatever things are pure, whatever is noble, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, whatever is worthy of praise, we commit ourselves to these things. Today especially Holy God, we lift before you these young people and we ask that you will bless them. Today they commit themselves to seeking your best for their lives and so we ask that you will continue to move in each of their lives.

For these parents, we ask that you will give them wisdom, understanding and discernment, Lord God, that they may be examples to their children of lives lived in service to you and they may serve to support and encourage their children in the commitments they have made today.

Holy God, we love you and we need you and we can't live without you, give us discipline to listen to your voice, obedience to hear, and the courage we need to respond in obedience and faith, for we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

If you would like to make this "Commitment to Sexual Purity" in a public service of worship here at Hope, please text me (Adam) @559.288.1444 or email [adam@hopelutheranfresno.org](mailto:adam@hopelutheranfresno.org) and tell me your name and which service you would like to do this, either 9am on May 30 or 11am on June 6. Feel free to let me know if you have any questions.