

10 Warnings from Elder Neal A. Maxwell

1. Resist the rhetoric of the world [about morality and sexuality], and you will find that, if you stand fast, so will others—some surprisingly.
2. Since you don't let people come in and walk around in your house with muddy feet, do not let them walk through your minds with muddy feet.
3. Build your strong personal link in a chain of chastity and family fidelity, so it can proceed forth from grandparents to parents to children and then on to their posterity.
4. Do not company with fornicators—*not because you are too good for them but because you are not good enough*. Remember that bad situations can wear down even good people.
5. Along with the traditional, predatory, selfish male there is now the predatory, selfish female.
6. Where mistakes have been made, remember we have the glorious gospel of repentance. The miracle of forgiveness awaits all who are seriously sorry and who will follow the necessary steps. Bear in mind, however, these are situations in which the soul must first be scalded by shame, for only with real cleansing can real healing occur. *But the road of repentance is really there.*
7. Where the impulse to do wrong appears, act against that impulse while the impulse is still weak and while the will is still strong.
8. Because our Church's behavioral standards are different, connect that fact with what several prophets have told us about how we must come to despise the shame of the world. We must not hold the people of the world in contempt; we must love them.
9. Remember, those who are in error must not call the cadence for your life, for *those who boast of their sexual conquests are only boasting of that which has conquered them*. We may pity behavioral clones, but we do not envy them.
10. My young friends, in your concern for justice, deal justly with yourselves! There is a very telling verse in the Book of Mormon that describes an ancient political leader with these words: "And he did do justice unto the people, but not unto himself because of his many whoredoms" (Ether 10:11).

Neal A. Maxwell, "Reasons to Stay Pure," New Era, Mar. 2003, 42