

The Epistle to the Ephesians

“United by a Moment”

Sex in the City

Eph. 5:1-14

Lust (v. 3-7) Leads to the corruption of sex

Sexual immorality (pornea) is the corruption of sex. Sexual immorality is all getting or seeking sexual satisfaction or sexual arousal outside the marriage relationship.

Fornication should be eliminated from your life if you are a Christian. It should be shunned like a dangerous disease. For it is far more dangerous than AIDS. AIDS can only kill your body.

Fornication can kill your soul as we will see from verse 6 in a few moments.

Neither uncleanness (sexual distortions) nor covetousness (which elevates the pursued pleasure above the revealed will of God) are fitting for saints.

John Piper:

“When God reveals his wrath, his intention is not to contradict or hinder the gospel motives of faith and freedom and joy. Just the opposite: the revelation of his wrath is the intensification of his demand that we trust in his mercy and delight in his grace. “He threatens terrible things if we will not be happy!””

v. 7 - do not share (be fellows sharers) in their sin, their guilt, and their everlasting punishment. (2 Cor. 6:14-18)

“them” – not those who have been re-made over by Jesus – the Master Builder – now children of light. This is who we are. We have a new identity in Christ.

Love and Gratitude (v. 1-2, 4) Saves people from slavery to lust

Imitators of God – How do we, creatures of the dust, imitate Him who we cannot fathom – who in the manifestation of a glimpse of His glory the seraphim cover their faces and their feet and cry out continually, “Holy, holy, holy in the Lord of hosts”? We cannot imitate all His attributes but we were created in His image and told to copy His love!!!

- offering and sacrifice (Ps. 40; Heb. 10)

Instead of self-indulgence we are to follow Christ in self-sacrifice for God and others. To imitate God is to live a life of love. It is in our nature to love – because the life of Jesus by His Spirit is in us. This is our identity.

If fornication and impurity are driven by covetousness, and covetousness is a deep discontented craving that dominates your life and even leads you to go against the will of God, then it is clear that the opposite experience would be thanksgiving (v. 4). If you are overflowing with thanksgiving to God, then you are not dominated and driven by discontentment at what you have been denied.

Gratitude is what you feel when you believe God is for you and not against you. It's what you feel when you believe that he gives you only what is good for you and withholds no good thing (single or married!). It's what you feel when you trust him, that the tragedies of your life are not evidences of his meanness or his incompetence; but rather that they are the discipline of a loving Father who values your holiness above your fleeting worldly happiness. That's why verse 20 goes so far as to say, "Always and for everything give thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father."

Martin Luther in his essay called "The Freedom of a Christian" (published in 1520):

"Although I am an unworthy and condemned man, my God has given me in Christ all the riches of righteousness and salvation without any merit on my part, out of pure, free mercy, so that from now on I need nothing except faith which believes that this is true. Why should I not therefore freely, joyfully, with all my heart, and with an eager will do all things which I know are pleasing and acceptable to such a Father who has overwhelmed me with his inestimable riches?"

Light (v. 8-14) Saves a culture from slavery to lust.

v. 8 – the darkness of v. 17-19. But now the Light of the world has entered our hearts and lives. We are to reflect Jesus as the moon reflects the light of the sun. God changes us first and then asks us to walk in accordance with that change.

Don't become a hermit or isolate yourself from the evil doers – rather expose them. Their deeds are exposed by you shining light in the darkness. Your life lived in love exposes selfishness.

Parallel passage = Col. 3:1-17