

Zero Tolerance on Sexual Immorality

April 9th & 10th, 2016

Ephesians 5:3-8

As we look to the principles of love, we are warned not to confuse love with sexual immorality. The love of God is the motivation that is constantly shaping and inspiring the life of the believer. We are His beloved children, therefore we have the grace to imitate God and walk in love – unconditional love that gives to others and becomes a fragrance and a sacrifice to others.

Abstain from anything that has to do with sexual immorality

Ephesians 5:3 “But Sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.”

❖ Avoid any form of sexual immorality

1 Thessalonians 4:2-3 “For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;”

1 Corinthians 6:18 “Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.”

1 Corinthians 5:11 “But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.”

“**4202** *porneía* (the root of the English terms "pornography, pornographic"; ...) which is derived from *pernaō*, "to sell off" – properly, a *selling off* (surrendering) of sexual purity; *promiscuity* of any (every) type.”¹

- ❖ This concept of engaging in sexual immorality of any kind is impurity of the body, as well as impurity of the mind and soul; but the body, mind and soul are to be consecrated to the Lord.
- ❖ We need to realize that the collapse of any godly person into sexual immorality is not a sudden fall; it all develops from little compromises and ends up in tragedy.
- ❖ Abstain from all impurity or covetousness!
 - ↳ When we look at impurity and covetousness together, it is important to see that impurity is physical lust and covetousness or greed is the material lust.
- ❖ In the development of New Testament Christian doctrine for gentiles that were new believers, sexual immorality is one of the essentials which they were to abstain from in their spiritual growth.

Acts 15:19-20;28 “Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. ... For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:”
- ❖ The seriousness of the command in Ephesians 5:3 is seen in that we should not even mention these activities, which in our time have become a lifestyle for the majority of people.

“...*must not even be named among you...*”

“Instead let there be thanksgiving...”

Ephesians 5:4 “Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving”

- ❖ In place of sexual immorality, God has called us to be vessels of thanksgiving.
- ❖ As we look to the redemption that Jesus Christ has provided with His blood, we realize that now we are being consecrated to God.

📖 *1 Corinthians 6:13-20*

“...But He who is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with Him...”

“...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you...”

“...You are not your own, for you were bought with a price...”

“...So glorify God in your body!”

- ❖ Our thanksgiving flows from the understanding of what He has done for us, who we are in Christ and who we belong to.
- ❖ As we are commanded to abstain from sexual immorality, God is directing us to a purpose: sanctification.
“...as is proper among saints...”
- ❖ Sanctification is the door to experiencing more of the blessing that God has for our lives.

What does sanctification mean and what are its characteristics?

⇒ Love toward God and love toward others.

⇒ Purity is an expression of love toward those we are committed to – a purity that comes from loving God and loving people.

- ❖ Without having a relationship with God, the commandments of God would only lead us to rebellion, but a love relationship with God will always lead us to sanctification.

“Because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience”

Ephesians 5:5-6 “For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them;”

Colossians 2:8 “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

- ❖ When we look at society and what is happening in regard to sexual immorality, we see that the hearts and ideas are already turned over *“to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.” Romans 1:22-28*
- ❖ Paul shows how much we must abhor sexual immorality inside the church; it desecrates the body of Christ and is vile. *2 Corinthians 12:21*
- ❖ People who practice “these things” will not inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Colossians 3:5-7; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:7-8; Revelation 22:14-15

Ephesians 5:8

*“For at one time you were darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”*

7 steps to maintaining sexual purity in your life

Renewing of your mind

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Praying for grace and protection in your life

Matthew 36:41 “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Avoiding sexual immorality

Proverbs 22:3 “The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.”

Pursuing the virtues of God

2 Timothy 2:22 “So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

Following godly men

2 Timothy 2:22 “So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

Guarding your heart from deception

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

Delighting yourself with your wife

Proverbs 5:18 “Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth.”

Endnotes:

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