

Love, Sex and Marriage

Lesson Two • Ephesians 5:3-6

Knowing the Difference Makes All the Difference

Warning:

When we fail to understand the difference between LOVE and SEX, we are doomed to failure in both our relationships and our sexuality.

Exploring the Difference: What God Says about Love and Sex

1. The Historical Setting: SEX and the City of Ephesus!

- Paul's day was one of the most sex-saturated CULTURES in history.
- Paul was writing to CHRIST-FOLLOWERS in the city of Ephesus where any and all sexual activity was a normal part of everyday life.

2. The Command: Walk in LOVE!

- Positively: BE giving, caring, sacrificial, and unselfish toward others, especially in relationships with the opposite sex.

Therefore be followers of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. Ephesians 5:1-2

- Negatively: REFUSE to take, exploit, cheapen, defraud, or substitute sexual activity for genuine love and authentic intimacy.

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. Ephesians 5:3-4

Three Words that Deserve Our Attention:

- 1) FORNICATION: refers to any and all sexual activity before marriage or outside the marriage relationship.
- 2) UNCLEANNES: means unrestrained sexual behavior and includes immoral thoughts, ideas, fantasies, and every other form of sexual corruption.
- 3) COVETOUSNESS: describes sexual lust that gradually consumes a person.

One Phrase that Deserves Our Application: "Giving of Thanks"

Thanksgiving or gratefulness is an expression of UNSELFISHNESS, which is seen in the way we think of or treat the opposite sex.

How high is God's standard for our relationships?

God says don't let sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness even be NAMED among you.

3. The Reason: God's WRATH Comes Upon the Sexually Immoral Apart from Jesus Christ!

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any 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. Ephesians 5:5-6

- God's standard for our relationships is for our PROTECTION; God doesn't want you to experience heartache now and His eternal wrath later.
- God's concern for our relationships flows from His COMPASSION; God wants you to enjoy His best now and for all eternity in His coming Kingdom.

A Word of Hope for All of Us:

You can repent and receive God's forgiveness for any and all sexual sin!

"Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18