

## ***Love, Sex and Marriage***

*Lesson Three • Ephesians 5:7-14*

### ***Sexual Purity in a Sex-Saturated Society***

#### ***Four Facts about Sex:***

- Fact 1:** Those who abstain from sex before marriage report the highest levels of sexual SATISFACTION in marriage.
- Fact 2:** Those who cohabitate or live together before marriage have a 50% higher divorce rate than those who do not.
- Fact 3:** Those who abstain from sex before marriage have the highest rates of FIDELITY in marriage.
- Fact 4:** The introduction of sex in a “dating” relationship almost always ushers in the BREAK-UP of that relationship.

#### ***How to Say “Yes” to Love and “No” to Second-Rate Sex:***

### ***1. Loving Relationships Demand Sexual PURITY!***

- Walk as children in LOVE.

*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*

- Walk as children of LIGHT.

*Therefore do not be partakers with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. Ephesians 5:7-11*

### ***2. Sexual Purity Demands a PLAN!***

- Develop biblical CONVICTIONS – sexual purity requires a personal commitment to God’s truth. *Eph. 5:1-4*
- Consider the CONSEQUENCES – fear can be a legitimate and healthy motivator for following God’s commands. *Eph. 5:5-6*
- Pre-decide your ACTIONS – advanced decision making is absolutely essential for sexual purity. *Eph. 5:7-9*
- Live to please GOD – seek the support of other Christ-followers to help you walk “pleasing to the Lord.” *Eph. 5:10-13*

### ***3. The Reward for Sexual Purity Is PLEASING!***

- Wake up—God’s way WORKS.
- You can start today—it’s never too LATE.
- A word to virgins—you are not weird, you are WISE.

#### ***Will You Say “Yes” to Love and “No” to Second-Rate Sex?***

- Yes—I will embrace God’s truth that loving relationships demand sexual purity.
- Yes—I will live by a plan that honors God and others and keeps sex sacred.
- Yes—I will anticipate reaping the reward of sexual purity in all my relationships.