

Ephesians: Christian Ethics

Sexual Ethics – Part I – Ephesians 5:3-5

Message Discussion Guide

Scripture & Message Review

Read Ephesians 5:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, and Ephesians 4:17.

- What does it mean that sexual immorality should not even be named among Christians?
- What are some ways Christians should live differently from the world with respect to sexual sins? How should this show up in marriage? How should this show up in the television shows we watch? How should this show up in what we view on the internet?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-17, 1 Corinthians 6:18, and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

- What does it mean that sexual sins are sins against one's own body?
- How are our bodies a part of Christ's body?
- How are our bodies temples of the Holy Spirit?
- In light of the fact that our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit, how does that make sexual sin different from other sins?

Read Proverbs 5:3-5, Proverbs 5:22, and Proverbs 6:27-29.

- What are some practical, real world consequences to sexual sin?
- How is sexual sin like a trap? What are the similarities between sexual sin and a trap used to hunt animals?
- Proverbs speaks of getting tangled up in the ropes of one's own sin. How can sexual sin take on the character of addictive behavior?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 2:13, and 1 John 1:6-7.

- What does it mean that we are a new creation in Christ?
- What does it mean that we are alive with him?
- What does it mean that we go from walking in darkness to walking in light?
- How does being a Christian change our attitude about sin?

Read Hebrews 12:5-6 and Hebrews 12:8.

- Why does the Lord discipline his children?
- What can we conclude if we can continue in a persistent sin and not experience the discipline of the Lord?

Big Question

- Can someone have any assurance that he or she is a genuine child of God while involved in ongoing sexual sin? How does your answer comport with Ephesians 5:5, 1 Corinthians 6:9, and Romans 10:9?

Bonus Question

- How do you reconcile 1 John 1:8 and 1 John 3:9-10?

Scripture for Discussion Questions

Ephesians 5:3 | But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you, as is proper for saints. (CSB)

1 Thessalonians 4:3–5 | For this is God’s will, your sanctification: that you keep away from sexual immorality, that each of you knows how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not with lustful passions, like the Gentiles, who don’t know God. (CSB)

Ephesians 4:17 | Therefore, I say this and testify in the Lord: You should no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thoughts. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 6:15–17 | Don’t you know that your bodies are a part of Christ’s body? So should I take a part of Christ’s body and make it part of a prostitute? Absolutely not! Don’t you know that anyone joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For Scripture says, The two will become one flesh. But anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 6:18 | Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 | Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body. (CSB)

Proverbs 5:3–5 | Though the lips of the forbidden woman drip honey and her words are smoother than oil, in the end she’s as bitter as wormwood and as sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps head straight for Sheol. (CSB)

Proverbs 5:22 | A wicked man’s iniquities will trap him; he will become tangled in the ropes of his own sin. (CSB)

Proverbs 6:27–29 | Can a man embrace fire and his clothes not be burned? Can a man walk on burning coals without scorching his feet? So it is with the one who sleeps with another man’s wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished. (CSB)

2 Corinthians 5:17 | Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (CSB)

Colossians 2:13 | And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. (CSB)

1 John 1:6–7 | If we say, “We have fellowship with him,” and yet we walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (CSB)

Hebrews 12:5–6 | And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: My son, do not take the Lord’s discipline lightly or lose heart when you are reproved by him, for the Lord disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives. (CSB)

Hebrews 12:8 | But if you are without discipline—which all receive—then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (CSB)

Ephesians 5:5 | For know and recognize this: Every sexually immoral or impure or greedy person, who is an idolater, does not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 6:9 | Don’t you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God’s kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, (CSB)

Romans 10:9 | If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (CSB)

1 John 1:8 | If we say, “We have no sin,” we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (CSB)

1 John 3:9–10 | Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because his seed remains in him; he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God. This is how God’s children and the devil’s children become obvious. Whoever does not do what is right is not of God, especially the one who does not love his brother or sister. (CSB)