

Ephesians: Christian Ethics

Sexual Ethics – Part II – Ephesians 5:1-5

Message Discussion Guide

Scripture & Message Review

Read Genesis 1:16-18, Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 7:1-3, and 1 Corinthians 6:18.

- Where did marriage originate? Whose idea was it?
- Do you believe that God was establishing a pattern for marriage when he instituted the first marriage? Why or why not?
- Simply put, in one sentence, what is God’s standard when it comes to practicing our sexuality?

Read Ephesians 5:2, John 13:34, and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

- What does the Bible mean when it says we are to walk in love and that we are to love one another?
- What are some of the common obstacles to loving one another, and how can we overcome them?
- What are some ways we can love people who have a different belief or lifestyle than we embrace?
- Read Philippians 2:3. What does that have to do with loving one another?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:10 and Romans 12:3.

- What is meant by the oft quoted phrase: “There, but for the grace of God, goes me?”
- What are some unknown things that should lead us to greater humility when talking to people involved in sexual sin?

Read John 8:3-11.

- What do you think Jesus wrote in the dirt? What can we learn from the actions of Jesus toward these accusers and their response?
- What did Jesus mean when he said, “I do not condemn you?”
- What did Jesus mean when he said, “Go, and from now on do not sin anymore?”

Read Matthew 9:10-12.

- What is the point of this passage?

Big Question

- What are some practical ways you could show love, refuse to compromise the truth, and speak the gospel to a homosexual couple who lived next door to you?

Bonus Question

- Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. How should we treat people in the church differently than our neighbors when it comes to sexual sin? How should this play out practically?

Scripture for Discussion Questions

Genesis 1:16–18 | God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night—as well as the stars. God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. (CSB)

Genesis 2:24 | This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 7:1–3 | Now in response to the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” But because sexual immorality is so common, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman should have sexual relations with her own husband. A husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband. (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)

Ephesians 5:2 | and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God. (CSB)

John 13:34 | “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 | Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (CSB)

Philippians 2:3 | Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 15:10 | But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. (CSB)

Romans 12:3 | For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. (CSB)

John 8:3–11 | Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center. “Teacher,” they said to him, “this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” They asked this to trap him, in order that they might have evidence to accuse him. Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with his finger. When they persisted in questioning him, he stood up and said to them, “The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her.” Then he stooped down again and continued writing on the ground. When they heard this, they left one by one, starting with the older men. Only he was left, with the woman in the center. When Jesus stood up, he said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, Lord,” she answered. “Neither do I condemn you,” said Jesus. “Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.” (CSB)

Matthew 9:10–12 | While he was reclining at the table in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Now when he heard this, he said, “It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 5:9–13 | I wrote to you in a letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. I did not mean the immoral people of this world or the greedy and swindlers or idolaters; otherwise you would have to leave the world. But actually, I wrote you not to associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister and is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or verbally abusive, a drunkard or a swindler. Do not even eat with such a person. For what business is it of mine to judge outsiders? Don’t you judge those who are inside? God judges outsiders. Remove the evil person from among you. (CSB)