

Marriage and Parenting

Topic 5 – Marriage – Sexual Purity

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Introduction

Those who have exercised the gift of true saving faith have been changed; God has done a supernatural work in their heart and they have been made new in Christ (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 2:20). Since they are new creatures in Christ, they will bring about fruits in their life in keeping with repentance (1 Pet 1:8-9; John 14:14, 23; 1 John 2:3-6). This is a forever-change and one that has practical implications for our entire life.

The Scriptures declare that our calling is toward holiness and purity.

⁹who has saved us and **called us with a holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 1 Tim 1:9

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹²instructing us to **deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly** in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to **purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.** Titus 2:11-14

Because of our position in Christ, one of the areas of holiness which should display a marked difference from the world is the believer's view of sex and sexual immorality.

❖ **Where do you get your thinking of sex from, the world or the Bible?**

Sex in Marriage

Before we look specifically at purity in marriage, let's look at some biblical principles of sex. The purpose of sex in marriage is to:

– glorify God

³¹Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Cor 10:31

²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. 1 Cor 6:20

– procreate

²⁸God blessed them; and God said to them, **“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”** Gen 1:28

– express marital intimacy (Song of Solomon)

– deepen marriage companionship

¹“On my bed night after night I sought him Whom my soul loves; I sought him but did not find him. Song 3:1

– physical pleasure

¹⁸Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love. Prov 5:18-19

²“May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine. Song 1:2

- Purity – protecting from sexual immorality by meeting the need for physical fulfillment.

²But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. ³The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. ⁵Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ... ⁸But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. ⁹But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*. 1 Cor 7:2-5, 8-9

❖ **What are some other purposes people apply to sex in marriage?**

Some biblical principles of sex in marriage:

- Sex in marriage is pure and holy. God created the marriage union to include sex. This union he said was “very good”.

²⁷God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸God blessed them; and God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply**, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ... ³¹**God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.** And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Gen 1:27-28, 31

This is very important. For believers who have grown up in a believing family, they have been taught from an early age that sex outside of marriage is sin. It is important that we understand that within marriage, sex is a pure and holy activity that God blesses.

- A goal of sex in marriage is giving and providing sexual satisfaction to your spouse. Sex is not about self; it is about giving to satisfy your spouse.

³**The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.** ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. ⁵Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 1 Cor 7:2-5

¹⁶“For **God so loved the world, that He gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

We find other principles from 1 Corinthians 7 related to the marriage sexual relationship.

- Each spouse is commanded to strive to satisfy the other (v3, 4). Sex in marriage is a privilege and a pleasure, but also a responsibility.
- Sex in marriage should be regular and continuous (v5). The only exception is by mutual consent (i.e. conversation required) for the purpose of prayer. There is no other reason given for abstinence in marriage.
- Extended periods of abstinence in marriage increases the temptation for immorality (v5).

❖ **Do you view sex as a way to get what you want or a way to serve your spouse?**

Sex Outside Marriage

The only kind of sex that can honor God is sex between a man and a woman who are married to each other. Everything else is sin. It is God's will that the believer be set apart in practice from sin and increase in sanctification (becoming increasingly more like Jesus in our character – more and more holy). Specifically related to sex, the believer is to abstain from sexual immorality.

³For this is the will of God, **your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality**; 1 Thess 4:3

❖ Do you view the involvement in sexual sin as an activity for unbelievers?

The Spirit through Paul says that some of us walked in sexual immorality, but through true saving faith in Christ we have been changed.

⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; **neither fornicators**, nor idolaters, **nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals**, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹**Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.** 1 Cor 6:9-11

There are several words for sexual sins used in 1 Corinthians 6 and other New Testament passages.

“fornicators” [pornos] means one who is sexually immoral or who commits sexual immorality.

“adulterers” [moichos] describes one who is unfaithful to a spouse.

“effeminate” [malakos] means soft or soft to the touch and metaphorically a male who submits his body to be used homosexually.

“homosexuals” [arsenokoites] means one who lies with a male as with a female.

¹¹Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. ¹²The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in **sexual promiscuity and sensuality**, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts. Rom 13:11-14

“sexual promiscuity” [koite] describes sexual intercourse outside of marriage.

“sensuality” [aselegia] referred to any excess or lack of restraint but came to convey the idea of shameless excess and the absence of restraint, uninhibited sexual indulgence.

¹⁹Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: **immorality, impurity, sensuality**, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, **that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.** Gal 5:19-21

“immorality” [porneia] is associated with sexual excess and indulgence, of every kind of extramarital, unlawful, or unnatural sexual intercourse.

“impurity” [akatharsia] is a broad term describing a state of moral uncleanness in thought, word, and deed, especially sexual sin.

“sensuality” (see “sensuality” above)

⁵For this you know with certainty, that **no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.** Eph 5:5

“immoral” [pornos] (see “immorality” above)

“impure” [akathartos] (see “impurity” above)

⁴Marriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the *marriage bed is to be undefiled*; for **fornicators and adulterers God will judge.** Heb 13:4

“fornicators” [pornos] see 1 Cor 6:9

“adulterers” [moichos] see 1 Cor 6:9

We can see from these passages what God thinks of sex outside of marriage: “will not inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor 6:9-10); “those that practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal 5:19-21); and “fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Heb 13:4). Those that **walk** in sin (including sexual sin) demonstrate that regeneration has not taken place.

❖ **How do you walk?**

Sexual immorality is sin. This is clear teaching from the Scriptures. The Spirit through Paul provides several truths regarding sexual sin that inform our thinking.

¹²All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet **the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.** ¹⁴Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. ¹⁵Do you not know that **your bodies are members of Christ?** Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! ¹⁶Or do you not know that **the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her?** For He says, “THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.” ¹⁷But **the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.** ¹⁸Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but **the immoral man sins against his own body.** ¹⁹Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?**

²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body.** 1 Cor 6:12-20

1. The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord (v13).
2. Our bodies are members of Christ (v15).
3. Sexual sin joins the members of Christ’s body to an immoral person (v15-16).
4. The believer is indwelt with the Spirit (v17).
5. Sexual sin is a sin against God and your own body (v18 and Psa 51).

¹Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. Psa 51:1-4

6. The indwelt believer is a temple of the Holy Spirit (v19).
7. The believer’s purpose is to glorify God even with our body (v20).

❖ **Is your purpose to glorify God with your body?**

Lust

Many people think that the problem with sexual sins are the acts of sexual immorality. However, the problem, as with all sin, is at the heart level.

¹⁸But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

¹⁹**For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.** Matt 15:18-19

Lust is the normal English word that is used to describe evil sexual heart motives. However, the Greek word translated “lust” [epithumai] simply conveys the idea of “having one’s passion toward”. It is a neutral term denoting the presence of strong desire. Whether it is good or evil is determined by the context. It is used in a positive sense to mean “earnestly desire” and refers to God given desires which are fulfilled in a God honoring way.

¹⁵And He said to them, “I have **earnestly desired** to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; Luke 22:15

²³But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the **desire** to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better; Phil 1:23

⁷But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with **great desire** to see your face. 1 Thess 2:17

❖ **What God-honoring things do you earnestly desire?**

Most often, however, “lust” is used negatively to describe strong desires which are perverted by the totally depraved sin nature. For the believer, they are set free from the power of sin over their life and do not have to give in to the depraved strong desires.

²⁴Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and **desires**. Gal 5:24

⁵Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil **desire**, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. Col 3:5

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its **lusts**, Rom 6:12

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹²instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly **desires** and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, Titus 2:12-13

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the **desire** of the flesh. Gal 5:16

❖ **Are you living in the power of the Holy Spirit free from lust?**

So, what is the relationship between lust and temptation and sin? James gives us useful insight.

¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. James 1:13-15

“carried away” [exelko] means to draw out, drag forth, or draw away. It pictures luring a fish from its place of safety by bait.

“enticed” [deleazo] means to beguile, entrap, entice. It pictures catching fish by use of bait.

The problem is not “strong desire”. The problem is perverted strong desire which is “fleshly lust” (1 Pet 2:11). It is the corruption of sexual desire (fleshly lusts) that wages war against the soul.

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 1 Pet 2:11

❖ Do you consider yourself in a war against fleshly lust?

God has given most people a strong desire for sex. The strong desire becomes perverted by our total depravity. Without the control of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to live God-honorably and exercise self-control over this fleshly lust. The strong desire draws us out from the safety of living the Spirit-filled life and entices us to entertain the strong desire in a God dishonoring way. That fleshly lust then is conceived and it gives birth to sin.

Look at what Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount about the sexual fleshly lust in the heart.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; ²⁸but I say to you that **everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her** has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matt 5:27-28

Looks [blepo] means to look at and is in the present tense which pictures continually looking.

Everyone who continually looks (gazes) at a woman with perverted strong desire (lust) “for her” is sinning in his heart. Sexual fleshly lust is based on selfishness not on service.

❖ Do you consider sexual lust as serious as sins of sexual acts ?

❖ Is it a sin to lust after your spouse?

The greed-like nature of sexual immorality

The Scriptures give us an indication of the insidiousness of sexual sin. It is a greed-like sin; a sin that involves insatiable appetites.

⁵Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to **immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed**, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. Col 3:5-7

Paul lays out a progression starting with evil acts which stem from the heart and working backwards to worshiping oneself over God. Ultimately, immoral acts come from greed which is the desire to have something in the place of God which is idolatry.

idolatry (self before God) → greed → lust → sexual acts

Since sinful sexual acts come from hearts of greed, we can see how this is not a linear issue, but circular. Greed [pleonexia] describes a strong desire to acquire more and more, especially that which is forbidden. It describes an insatiable selfishness; an insatiable desire to have more. Once obtained, the desire is for more.

This is what makes sexual sin so insidious. By taking part in sexual sin, greed is feed and greed wants more.

The Cost of Sexual Sin

The cost of sexual sin is high. Sexual sin, like all sin for the believer, brings disgrace upon the name of God.

²Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them **the way of the truth will be maligned**; 2 Pet 2:2

²²**You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?** You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? ²⁴**For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,”** just as it is written. Rom 2:22-24

³**But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you,** as is proper among saints; Eph 5:3

Sexual sin has the added consequences of destroying marriages, families, ministries, churches, etc.

Sexual sin does not just happen out of the blue. The physical act is the culmination of previous sins of fleshly lust that have not been repented of and forsaken. Sexual sins must be avoided at all costs.

❖ **What are you doing to protect God’s reputation?**

❖ **What are you doing to protect yourself from the insidiousness of sexual sins?**

Putting off Sexual Sin

Remember what Paul said about what we used to be.

¹¹Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. 1 Cor 6:9-11

In addition, we have been set free from enslavement to sin (see Romans 6:15-23). Now we need to keep putting off sin as we become more and more like Christ in character.

Ephesians 4 gives is a great pattern for putting off immorality and putting on righteousness.

²⁰But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²²that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³and that you **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, ²⁴and **put on the new self**, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Eph 4:20-24

Paul spends the first 3 chapters of Ephesians detailing the blessings of salvation. Then in chapter 4, because of that salvation, believers are to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called”. Do not be like you were before, be something different. This process of change or sanctification (changing into Christ-likeness) is described as: 1) put off, 2) renew, and 3) put on.

“Lay aside” (“put off” in the ESV) means to cease doing what you were previously accustomed to doing; stop doing it; throw it off like filthy, foul smelling clothes; be done with it. It is a metaphor like having your clothes soaked with sewage and stripping them off and throwing them away and never getting them back. This is repentance from sin – we strip the sin off and never get it back. True repentance looks like this:

¹⁰For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter. 2 Cor 7:10-11

❖ **Do you throw off sin with the intent to never pick it up again?**

God tells us in His Word that the believer will continue to battle against flesh (see for example Rom 7:22-23 and 1 Pet 2:11). God also gives us the key to living a life that is pleasing to Him which is “walking in the Spirit”. It is the indwelling Holy Spirit that provides the power to wage victorious war with the flesh. “Walking in the Spirit” is also described as “being filled with the Spirit.”

¹⁶But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.** ¹⁷For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. Gal 5:16-17

Living a consistently God glorifying life is only possible through Spirit-filling. The Christian life is not lived in one’s own strength. It is a life lived filled with the Spirit as the life of Christ flows through you.

When a believer is submitted to God (Eph 5:18-6:9) and His Word (Col 3:16-4:1), the indwelling Holy Spirit fills (or controls) them and produces Christ-like character, heart motives, attitudes, words, and reactions. The believer in a right relationship with God will be filled with the Spirit. This is the usual, expected state of a believer.

As the believer repents of all known sin (Eph 4:30), bows before God in complete submission (1 Thess 5:19), and is immersed in the Word (Col 3:16), they will be filled with the Spirit and will therefore exhibit the fruits of the Spirit. If we find ourselves sinning and therefore bowed before a master other than the Lord, then we must repent and bow again before the Lord. As we repent and once again bow before the Lord as master, we will be filled with the Spirit and the life of Christ will flow through us. It is then that we will have the power to live a God-glorifying life exhibiting God’s character (the fruits of the Spirit).

“Be renewed in the spirit of your mind” means that our minds are made new as we fill it with the Word of God. It is not about covering up sin with something that smells good. It is about being transformed so that the sin is no longer a part of you. God’s Word is the tool that God’s Spirit uses to produce God honoring change in God’s child. Similarly in Romans:

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:2

Where is your focus?

¹Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²**fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:1-2

¹Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above, where Christ is**, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Col 3:1-3

❖ **Are you spending time in God’s Word? Where do you set your eyes/mind?**

“Put on the new self” – Paul continues his clothing metaphor. The idea is "sinking into a garment". It is like sinking into a new coat when it is freezing outside. This is making a choice to obey, to do righteousness, to replace the sin that you “put off” with obedience.

❖ **Is your purpose to glorify God through obedience?**

Strategies for Sexual Purity

1. Walk in the Spirit (above the line)

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴**Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** ²⁵**If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.** Gal 5:22-25

2. Be taking in, meditating, and memorizing God's Word continually

⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word. ... ¹¹Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. Psa 119:9, 11

3. Guard your mind

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵**We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,** 2 Cor 10:3-5

4. Set your mind on things above

¹Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²**Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth. Col 3:1-2

5. Keep alert

⁸Be of sober *spirit*, **be on the alert**. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Pet 5:8

6. Be proper

³But **immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you**, as is proper among saints; Eph 5:3

7. Be careful of your relationships

³³Do not be deceived: **“Bad company corrupts good morals.”** 1 Cor 15:33

8. Do not put yourself in a place to sin

¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.** Rom 13:14

9. Guard your eyes

¹**“I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?”** Job 31:1

10. Guard your lips

²⁹**Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth**, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Eph 4:29

⁴and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. Eph 5:4

11. Guard your ears

³For the lips of an adulteress drip honey And smoother than oil is her speech; ⁴But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. Prov 5:3-4

¹⁰As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her *or* be with her. Gen 39:10

12. Guard God's and your reputation

³But immorality or any impurity or greed must **not even be named among you, as is proper among saints**; Eph 5:3

²An overseer, then, must be **above reproach**, the husband of one wife, ... 1 Tim 3:2

⁶*namely*, if any man is **above reproach**, the husband of one wife, Titus 1:6

13. Run!

¹²She caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" **And he left his garment in her hand and fled**, and went outside. Gen 39:12

²²Now **flee from youthful lusts** and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 2 Tim 2:22

14. Have accountability

⁵Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹**Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices**, ¹⁰and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him Col 3:5-10

Evaluation Questions for Sexual Purity:

- Do I intentionally view (purpose to look at and linger on) sexually explicit material (TV, computer, magazines, etc.) or am I negligent in my purpose to not view this material?
- Do I spend any time alone with someone of the opposite sex that is not my spouse?
- Do I look forward to time with someone of the opposite sex that is not my spouse?
- Do I try to justify time alone with someone of the opposite sex that is not my spouse?
- Do I confide in someone of the opposite sex that is not my spouse?
- Do I have emotional bonds with someone of the opposite sex that is not my spouse?
- Do I joke and flirt with someone of the opposite sex that is not my spouse?
- Do I ever touch or am I ever touched by someone of the opposite sex that is not my spouse?

Conclusion

God's will for His children is to be set apart in practice from sin and increase in sanctification (becoming increasingly more like Jesus in our character – more and more holy). Specifically related to sex, the believer is to abstain from sexual immorality. Sexual immorality is not just the acts of immorality, but includes lust (perverted strong desire). The cost of sexual sin is high. Sexual sin, like all sin for the believer, brings disgrace upon the name of God. By walking in the Spirit and applying Biblical principles of putting off sin, the believer can walk in a way that honors God.

Real Life Scenarios

Yourself: You are married. Recently, you find yourself having romantic and sexual daydreams about a co-worker. What is the first thing you need to do? What are some other things you can do to be protecting yourself and your marriage?

Someone Else (male): You are out to lunch with your church friend and he confides in you that he has been struggling with pornography for years. This had lead to little to no intimacy in his marriage. What is the most important thing for you to know about him at this time? What are some things that you can share with him?

Someone Else (female): You are out to lunch with your church friend and she confides in you that she has been reading romance novels and fantasizing about how great her marriage would be if only her husband was like the men in the novels. She finds herself angry at her husband for not living up to her fantasy. This had lead to little to no intimacy in her marriage. What is the most important thing for you to know about her at this time? What are some things that you can share with her?

Marriage and Parenting – Additional Study
Topic 5 – Marriage – Sexual Purity

Re-read today's study. What principle do you find most critical in your life to battle sexual lust?

What relationships do you have in your life where sexual lust is an issue?

Re-read the evaluation questions and determine behavior that needs to be changed to promote purity.

Re-read the principles for purity and determine which ones need to be applied in these relationships.

Read 1 Peter 2:11 and what personal strategies do you have in place will you put in place be engaged in the war against fleshly lusts?

Who do you have in your life to aid you through accountability in the battle against sexual lust? Growth groups are key to having these accountability relationships.