

“Sexual Immorality and Idolatry”

Sexual Immorality – Part 2

Ephesians 5:3-10

v.3: 3 terms – sexual immorality (*pornea*), uncleanness, covetousness – covers all types of sexual immorality

v.4: 3 terms – filthiness, foolish talk, crude joking. (i.e., abuse sexuality by treating with obscenity or flippancy)

SEXUAL IMMORALITY IS NOT ABOUT SEX—IT IS ABOUT WORSHIP. Ephesians 5:5

1. What is sexual immorality? Gk. *πορνεία* (*pornea*) = ‘harlot for hire’ English word ‘porn’ is derived from *pornea*.

- Any sexual activity (thought, word, deed) specifically prohibited in or contradicting the spirit of God’s Word. It includes. adultery, fornication (any kind of sexual impurity), masturbation, homosexuality, cross-dressing, transgenderism, pedophilia, bestiality, etc. (incl. lustful thoughts or fantasy about)

2. What is idolatry? Gk. *ειδωλολατρία* = ‘idol serving’ or false worship

- Giving to or serving something/someone else that which belongs to God alone

3. The Bible teaches there is a connection between sexual immorality (*pornea*) and idolatry (false worship).

- When God’s people worship idols, the Bible calls it ‘adultery.’ Nu 25:1-3; Hosea; Is 57:7f; Jer 3:9; Mic 1:7
- When God’s people commit adultery, the Bible calls it ‘idolatry.’ Lev 20:1f; Col 3:5-6; Rom 1:24-27; I Cor 10:13

OVERCOMING SEXUAL IMMORALITY (‘PORN’) BEGINS IN THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

1. The idea of ‘the expulsive power of a new affection.’

- Ref. Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847), Presbyterian minister in Scotland.
- Summary: We all have deep heart desires (affections) that motivate, sustain, and consume us. Even “good” desires can become sinful if we make them an idol. (E.g., “I want my children to be successful!”)
- Sinful affections won’t go away just by admitting we have them or ‘trying harder’ to stop.
- *Only by our hearts being consumed with a new and greater affection will the old affection (desire) be removed.*
→ The problem is not your desire, it is *your lack of desire*. You need *greater* affections, not less.

2. Biblical basis for this idea:

- Matthew 6:24: No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
- Mark 3:24-25: If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.
- Luke 14:26: If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.
- 1 John 2:15: Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

→ The goal is not the ABSENCE of sex-centered passion; it is the PRESENCE of God-centered passion.

PAUL’S WARNING AND AFFIRMATION FOR THE CHRISTIAN

1. Let no one deceive you with empty words... v.6

2. Do not become partakers with them... v.7

3. Once you were darkness but now you are light in the Lord. v.8

→ Consecrate the LORD as God in your heart.

→ Elijah: 1 Kings 18: How long will you limp along between two positions? If the LORD is God, follow Him...

Some resources...

Unwanted: How Sexual Brokenness Reveals our Way to Healing by Jay Stringer. (NavPress; 2018)

False Intimacy: Understanding the Struggle of Sexual Addiction by Dr. Harry W. Schaumburg (NavPress; 1997)

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