

## Sex & Judgment

1 Corinthians 5

Pastor Derek Vreeland

### 1 Corinthians 5:1

Sexual immorality is sexual activity outside of God's plan.

God created sex for a husband and wife to enjoy together in the covenant of marriage.

### Five Questions about Sexuality and the Scripture

#### 1) Does the Bible say a man can have more than one wife?

- The Scripture never endorses polygamy.
- The OT law makes provision for polygamy as a conditional relationship (Exodus 21:10). The OT law also makes provision for selling your daughters into slavery (Ex 21:7) and returning injury for injury (Ex. 21:23-25), both of which violate the relational law of love given by Jesus.
- God did forbid the kings of Israel from "multiplying wives" (Deut 17:17).
- God allowed divorce for a time, but that wasn't his original plan (Matt 19:8).
- God did not condemn David or Solomon for multiple wives by similarly allowing the relationships although that was not his original plan.

#### 2) Are monogamous homosexual relationships outside of God's plan for human sexuality?

- The OT law prohibits Jews from homosexual relationships (Lev 18:22).
- The New Testament describes homosexuality as relationships outside of God plan (Rom. 1:27, 1 Cor. 6:9, and 1 Tim. 1:9-10).
- The Bible describes homosexuality uses words like "abomination," "unrighteous," "dishonorable passion" and "impurity."
- The Bible never makes provision for monogamous homosexual relationships.

#### 3) What does the Bible say about dating couples, can they do whatever they want as long as they don't go all the way?

- The Bible says to abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thess. 4:3).
- The Bible says to flee youthful passions (2 Tim. 2:22).
- Sex is more than "going all the way."
- Draw boundaries from biblical guidelines.

#### 4) Is porn really that bad?

- Jesus says that looking at a woman with lustful intentions is just as much of a sin as adultery (Matt. 5:28).
- Porn creates a distorted view of beauty and sexuality.
- Porn degrades women from image-bearers of God to sexual objects.
- 2006 Internet Pornography Stats\*
  - 4.2 million porn sites (12% of total websites)
  - 68 million search engine requests for porn (25% of total search engine requests)
  - Average age of first Internet exposure to pornography: 11 years old
  - 90% of 8-16 year olds have viewed porn online
  - 47% of Christians say pornography is a major problem in the home

\* Taken from [http://www.familysafemedia.com/pornography\\_statistics.html](http://www.familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html)

#### 5) Doesn't the Bible say that sex in marriage is just for making babies?

- Historically, the church has answered "yes."
- Adam and Eve were given the command to be fruitful and multiply.
- The Scripture makes many references to the pleasure to be shared in a sexual relationship. (See Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Songs)

*Back to the church in Corinth...*

Someone let the cat out of the bag. The church included a man that was involved in an incestual relationship with his stepmother.

### 1 Corinthians 5:2

In the last chapter, Paul attacked their pride.

The problem Paul is addressing is not so much the sexual sin, but the church's apparent refusal to do anything about it.

### **1 Corinthians 5:3**

Paul says he has already pronounced judgment, but in 1 Corinthians 4:5 he says not to pronounce judgment on anyone until Jesus returns.

If you are looking for a law, rule or regulation in the Scripture, you only find contradiction and confusion. If you look at the spirit of the text, you can see Paul's point.

We do not judge people in the Church based on the non-essentials, but we judge people on the essentials. The essentials are contained in three mysteries - the mystery of the Trinity, salvation & Scripture.

If a person's conduct is in direct opposition to the clear teachings of Scripture, then we have a responsibility as a community of faith to issue judgment.

### **1 Corinthians 5:4-5**

Paul's spirit was present by the reading of this letter and his judgment. Dealing with the man's sin is the responsibility of the community, not just a select few, because his sin was common knowledge.

The phrase "deliver this man to Satan" is a figure of speech meaning "turn him back out into the world dominated by Satan's influence."

The goal of delivering the man to Satan is ultimately redemption, the saving of his soul. The destruction of the flesh is not the goal.

The "destruction of the flesh" is a reference to destroying that part of the man that is still inclined towards sin. In essence, Paul is saying to remove the man from the community of faith so that he can experience the futility of living life dominated by the flesh so that he can be restored.

### **1 Corinthians 5:6**

Leaven was old dough that was beginning to ferment. In Bible times they would add a little leaven to new dough to cause it to rise.

The man in sexual sin was like leaven and if allowed to stay in the local church he would spread his sexual ethics to the rest of group.

### **1 Corinthians 5:7**

During the annual Passover festival, the Jews would remove all leaven from their homes and only eat unleavened bread.

### **1 Corinthians 5:8**

Any sin, whether it is sexual in nature or not, is malicious and evil. We are called to live in sincerity and truth.

### **1 Corinthians 5:9-10**

Paul tells them to create some boundaries in their relationships and don't bring sexually immoral people into their inner circle. *You will become like the people you hang out with.*

### **1 Corinthians 5:11**

We are also called not to hang out with people who call themselves Christians, but openly live in violation of any of the three mysteries.

### **1 Corinthians 5:12**

Why would we judge sinners, those who are outside the church? Sinners sin. That is what they do, because that is their nature.

### **1 Corinthians 5:13**

The Bible says we are to remove from the local community of faith those who call themselves Christians, but refuse to live like Christ.

Before we even think about the sins of those around us, we have to look at the sin in our own hearts and lives.

The Holy Spirit's job is to reveal areas of sin in our lives. Our job is to respond by confession and repentance.



229-924-7409

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