

## Flee Immorality

Fire is good. A fire in the fireplace warms the house. A fire in the braai cooks the food. A fire in the rubbish dump kills germs and sterilizes the dump.

However a fire made in the middle of the lounge or a bush fire that rages out of control is no longer good but destructive.

So it is with sex. Sex in the right place, i.e. within marriage, is good. God designed us to have sex. It is His idea for procreation and pleasure between a husband and wife.

However, as with fire, sex in the wrong place is no longer good but is destructive.

1 Corinthians 5: 1 – 13; 6: 9 – 20

### 1) Dealing with immorality in the church (5: 1 – 13)

- Be aware of immorality in the church – someone who is living in the practice of sin. But do not ignore someone who has fallen into sin even though he/she isn't living a continual sinful lifestyle.
- When we are aware of it we cannot just tolerate it under the guise of “grace”.
  - We should be filled with grief that something like this would happen in the church
  - We should not be proud of how spiritual we are as a church and yet tolerate sinful living amongst us.
- In the previous chapter Paul told the believers to “judge nothing”, but now he talks about passing judgment. Is he contradicting himself?
  - There is a righteous judgment that we can make based on facts. In this case a man was having sexual relations with his father's wife.
  - Leviticus 18: 8 “Do not have sexual relations with your father's wife; that would dishonour your father”.
  - Thus Paul was making a righteous judgment judging an action against scripture and not making a mere opinionated judgment
- We are told to:
  - “...put out of your fellowship the man who did this.” (v.2)
  - “...hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.” (v.5)
  - “...not to associate with sexually immoral people.” (v.9)
  - “With such a man do not even eat.” (v.11)
  - “Expel the wicked man from among you.” (v.13)
- The reason for this seemingly harsh treatment is that we are told to get rid of the old yeast. The yeast of sin. A little yeast spreads to affect a whole batch of bread so it is with sin. It spreads and affects the whole church. Thus we are commanded to be a batch without yeast as Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.
- We also need to take heed of the process of church discipline that Jesus commanded in Matthew 18: 15 – 17
  - Show him his fault between the two of you.
  - If he doesn't listen to you take one or two others along
  - If he refuses to listen to them tell it to the church
  - If he refuses to listen to the church treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
- Before we deal with someone else's sin of immorality or anything else we need to make sure that our lives are in order because Paul basically says that the same treatment is for all practicing sin. The list that he gives are besides the sexually immoral includes greedy, idolater, slanderer, drunkard and swindler. Often the church doesn't even think about dealing with some of these issues which Paul clearly puts in the same category of sin as the sexually immoral.

## 2) Consequences of immorality (6: 9 – 10)

- The wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God
- The list includes:
  - Sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexual offenders, thieves, greedy, drunkards, slanderers, swindlers

### Practical consequences of sexual immorality:

- Broken relationships
- Illegitimate children
- STD's & AIDS
- Passing on generational curses
- Etc.

### Spiritual consequences of sexual immorality

- <sup>NU 25:1</sup> While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, <sup>2</sup> who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods. <sup>3</sup> So Israel joined in worshipping the Baal of Peor. And the Lord's anger burned against them.
- <sup>1 Corinth 10: 8</sup> We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did--and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. <sup>9</sup> We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes. <sup>10</sup> And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel.
- <sup>GAL 5:19</sup> The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- <sup>COL 3:5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.<sup>n</sup>
- <sup>Jude 7</sup> In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.
- Demon possession

## 3) Flee immorality (6: 10 – 20)

- We have been bought with a price.
- We have been washed, sanctified (set apart for the Lord) and justified
- We have been bought with a price and our body is not our own it belongs to the Lord.
- Our bodies are members of Christ Himself and temples of the Holy Spirit who is in us.
- Thus we are exhorted to honour God with our bodies.