SERMON HANDOUT for May 21, 2023



Sermon Series: The Elephant In The Room **"THE LURES OF THE FLESH"** – Part 4 (Sexual Immorality) 2 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV Dr. Joshua Beckley, Senior Pastor

Quote for the Week

Freedom is a two-sided coin. On one side is privilege: on the other, responsibility.

SCRIPTURE

† 2 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV

JERUSALEM DECREE

† Acts 15:22-29 NKJV

FOUR THINGS OF NECESSITY TO BE PRACTICED IN THE CHURCH:

1) ABSTAIN FROM THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS

(That was the controversy in the Church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 8)

† Leviticus 17:7-9 NKJV

2) ABSTAIN FROM BLOOD

† Leviticus 17:10-12 NKJV

3) ABSTAIN FROM THINGS STRANGLED

† Leviticus 17:13-14 NKJV

(A little more context should be given to this Law, as God is instituting a way of killing animals for the consumption of flesh. He is banning the strangulation of an animal and allowing only for animals to be slaughtered in a proper way with the blood to be let out properly.)

4) ABSTAIN FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY (FORNICATION)

- † Leviticus 18:1-25 NKJV (Abominations)
- † Leviticus 18:26-29 NKJV
- † 1 Corinthians 5:1 NKJV
- † 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 NIJV
- † 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NKJV

INTRODUCTION

Sexual immorality - the "selling off" of sexual purity and involves any type of sexual expression outside the boundaries of a biblically defined marriage relationship.

Matthew 19:4-5 NKJV

Sexual immorality - implies behavior contrary to the accepted moral code, which may differ according to the society and the group of people concerned.

Studies suggest around 30–40% of unmarried relationships and 18–20% of marriages see at least one incident of sexual infidelity.

Sexual Immorality = "porneia" - fornication, illicit sexual activity. (Includes Pornography; Human Trafficking; Sexual Abuse & Assault)

SEXUAL IMMORALITY FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE:

1) THE <u>COMMONALITY</u> OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY

It is widespread in the world; everybody is affected by it!

- † 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 NKJV
- † Ephesians 5:3-7 NKJV
- † Revelation 9:21 NKJV

2) THE <u>CAUSE</u> OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY

The great idol of this country has kicked down the door.

Eros problem (erotica) - our society has overdosed on immoral sexual behavior.

The Kaiser Foundation conducts research regarding sex on television:

- 1,114 randomly selected programs discovered sexual content on 68% of all shows (up sharply from 56% just two years earlier).
- 84% of all sitcoms and 89% of TV movies involved sex or sexually oriented language, (not including homosexual relationships).
- During prime-time hours:
 - 75% of all shows featured sexual content of some kind.
 - Participants are getting younger
 - in the two years between the studies, the portion of the characters involved in sexual relationships that were teens tripled.
- Information available on the internet (drowning in a sea of idolatrous immorality and sex.)
- 10% of U.S. adults admit to having an addiction to internet pornography.
 - 17% of all women struggle with porn addiction.
 - 20% of men and 13% of women admit to accessing porn while at work.
 - \circ 70% of women admit to keeping their cyber activities secret.
 - Pornography is literally wilting the life out of men and women.
 - Pornography is one of primary supporter of the Human trafficking epidemic.

Sexual Immortality is...

- ⊗ Killing our prayer lives
- \otimes Diverting us from the Word
- \otimes Choking out our worship
- † Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV
- **Practice** (Greek: *prasso*) = to do; carry out, perform.
- **Dictionary def:** it as repeated exercise in or performance of an activity or skill so as to acquire or maintain proficiency in it.
- * Mark 7:21-23 NKJV (cross reference: Matthew 15:19-20)
- † Jeremiah 17:9-10 NKJV

3) THE <u>CAUTION</u> OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY

- \otimes There are constant lures all around us.
- Solution The enemy knows the bondage that this sin creates and the struggle of ones seeking to be free from it and to bring under control in our lives.
- \otimes It caused David to fall (2 Sam 16:4)
- ⊗ It caused Solomon to turn from worshipping God (1 Kings 11:4)

Scriptures:

- Proverbs 6:24-29 NKJV (cross reference Proverbs 5:3-5)
- † Proverbs 5:3-5 NKJV
- † Proverbs 6:32 NKJV (cross reference Proverbs 5:20)
- † Proverbs 5:20 NKJV
- † Jeremiah 3:8-10 NKJV