

The CLARITY

- The Bible is _____ here and _____ throughout in its teaching around sex.
- Saying otherwise requires a _____, _____ or _____ of God's Word. Ephesians 5:6 reminds us to watch out for this _____.
- Because the Bible's clear teaching around sex is so at odds with the world's "teaching", we constantly face the perennial test, "Will we _____ and _____ God _____ will we _____ God and live our lives _____ of Him?"

The STRATEGY

Ephesians 5 not only tells us to avoid sexual immorality, it also gives us the Gospel tools to combat sexual desires in our lives . . .

1. Remember who _____ because of what Christ has done
 - We are _____ (5:1)
 - We are _____ (5:3)
 - We are _____ in the Lord (5:8)
2. Keep choosing _____-_____, _____-_____ love.
3. Don't _____ the _____.
4. Practice _____.



Putting on Self-Giving Love

Ephesians 5:1-8

Sunday, February 23, 2020

We live in a love-confused and hyper-sexualized culture where the pursuit of sexual fulfillment has been elevated to the ultimate good. The world tells us if we're not having sex, good sex and lots of sex, we aren't and can't be happy. Ephesians 5:1-8 tells us something radically different . . .

The CONTRAST

Real Love . . .

- Real love is _____-_____ and _____-_____.
- God in Christ loved us this way _____.
- We are called to love _____ and _____ in response to God's love.

Sexual Immorality . . .

- Sex is a _____ of God.
- Because of sin, _____ is broken and _____ are all sexually broken.
- Sexual immorality is any and all sexual activity outside of a _____, _____-_____ marriage between _____ and _____.
- Sexual immorality is a _____ of God's design and a _____ of God's good gift.
- Sexual immorality is _____-_____, _____-_____, and _____-_____.

NEXT WEEK: A Generous Life

Relational Generosity | Luke 10:25-37



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Growth Groups are the glue which holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org.

This year, our aim is to see our Growth Groups embody our 3-fold identity as followers of Jesus: Family, Servant, and Missionary. To that end, we're framing our Growth Group Interaction Guide to help groups move in that direction.

Connecting Together

In Ephesians we are talking about walking (living) with and in Christ. So how has your relationship with Christ impacted this week of your life? (Pair off in twos to discuss and then share what you learned from the other person in your pair.)

Digging into God's Word & the Message Together

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-8 together again as group. How did you come under God's Word in the text and message this week? How did God speak to you? What did you learn or what were you reminded of in this study?
2. "Real love is self-giving and self-sacrificing." How does Ephesians 5:1-2 teach us that? In other words, where do we see that in the text?
3. What is sexual immorality and why is it self-seeking, self-centered and self-gratifying? (Sit in this question together a bit!)

4. How do you feel the pressure of our hyper-sexualized culture? How does that impact you? How is it impacting churches?
5. **Your Growth Group as a Family:** How does sexual immorality impact the family of God in the local church? What are some of its ravaging effects? What does it look like to combat sexual temptation together as a church family?
6. **Your Growth Group as a Servant/Missionary:** The Bible's teaching about sex is directed toward those who know and trust the Gospel, not for non-believers. As we reach out with the good news of Jesus, those we are trying to reach are quite likely steeped in sexual immorality in different ways. How do we love these friends in self-giving and self-sacrificing ways, to share the Gospel with them without compromising what the Bible teaches in these matters? (It's not easy and it's a long game!)

Praying Together

- Share needs and pray for one another.
- Cry out to Jesus together to help love one another in self-giving, self-sacrificing ways.
- Pray for wisdom in loving the lost in your circles of influence in self-giving, self-sacrificing ways.