

## 1 Cor. 6:12-20—Flee Sexual Sin: A Red Flag Warning

- **Rip Current Analogy?**
  - People afraid of the ocean are mostly so because of the BIG threats—sharks, jellyfish, etc.
  - 55% more likely to be killed from RIP CURRENT than SHARK ATTACK
  - That is what those flags on top of lifeguard stand are for—Green, Yellow, Red
  - Rule Followers—if it is even considering yellow, we are out!
  - Rule Breakers—I see the news, I see the red flag, but I can do this...I'm going in!
- **Intro:**
  - Sexual sin is EVERYWHERE!
  - This is a man and woman problem
    - 1 in 6 women struggle with addictions to porn
    - 50% of men struggle with this
  - Why So Dangerous:
    - Access is SO HIGH (primetime TV)
    - Seems isolated and individual
    - The slope is slippery and FAST:
      - We are lazy with intimacy toward our spouse; quickly gives way to interested desires, intentional/unchecked pursuit of those desires, expression of those desires and then action on those desires!
  - This sin leads to Hell
    - **Matthew 5:27-29—this sin, unchecked and not repented of, leads to Hell!**
    - James 1:14-15—Destructive Sequence
      - **“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”**
      - Desires—Temptations—Actions—Death
      - We think we should just live and enjoy what pleases us but this fails to account for the fact that SATAN BAITs US with images, desires, opportunities that will seem pleasant but are DEADLY!
    - **John Owen—sin always aims at the uttermost; the smallest sin is but one step to the biggest and most treacherous sin.**
- **Flee Sexual Immorality because Jesus is Lord (v.12-14)**
  - v.12—**“All things are lawful for me”—a Corinthian slogan**
    - **Idea = I'm free to do whatever I want**
      - This idea = Paul always refers to this as SLAVERY
      - True Freedom = operating inside the correct boundaries
        - Is a fish truly free on dry land?
      - Danger of biblical slavery—repetitively saying NO to conviction leads to a place where our consciences are no longer dirty with sin. We continue justifying other sins until the entire idea of warring against sin, denying self are absent from our lives.
      - How do people lose their faith and tank their life—little by little, in things that seem unimportant, they ignore the voice of God
      - True Freedom = rejecting the wicked desires of the flesh and, instead, activating the power of grace and gospel to watch self-denial, self-control, etc. to bear fruit in your life!

- More than “lawful”, Christians think about “helpful”—does this build up, encourage, edify, support?
  - The qualifier for Christian action = not, “will this make me feel good,” but “will this help and serve OTHERS!
  - 1 Cor 10:23—life in a way that loves and helps...in a way that “builds up”
- Irony—they are saying I am FREE to do WHATEVER I want, and Paul is saying, actually you aren’t really FREE but ENSLAVED by everything.
- v.13—“food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
  - YOU DO NOT HAVE A BODY SO THAT YOU CAN SATISFY ALL YOUR CRAVINGS
    - v.13—“food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—A general, hedonistic statement of Corinth. Idea = the body is just going to waste away anyway so who cares what we do with it..eat, drink and sex as you wish!
  - YOU HAVE A BODY SO THAT YOU CAN SERVE THE PURPOSES OF GOD
    - Your body is FOR God and God is FOR your body.
    - Ultimately, every craving, longing and appetite we have can be met by Christ!
    - God is not indifferent or against our bodies
      - Your pleasure and joy and Jesus are not at odds with one another! God is for your pleasure!
- Application:
  - Is this thing becoming my master rather than my servant!?
  - Is what I do with my body more determined by my passions or God’s purposes?
- Flee Sexual Immorality Because it Opposes God’s Design for Sex (v.15-17)
  - v.16—“the two will become one flesh”
    - One flesh idea = “dod”—literally “mingling of souls” (Genesis 2:24)
    - Sex is WHOLISTIC—it is way more than a physical experience
      - What God has in mind through the PHYSICAL act of sex is that, when it occurs within the ferociously committed covenant of marriage, all sorts of satisfaction and fulfillment come with it!
      - Spouses—your spouse is not a glorified sex toy to give you pleasure, but a gift from God for you to experience the fullness of love and intimacy with!
      - Culture is so screwed up here that it has begun to herald the solution to sexual struggle as TECHNIQUE rather than FREQUENCY.
        - Message—“you are satisfied with the sex you are having, so have BETTER sex”
    - Problems with Sexual Immorality:
      - It DEHUMANIZES the object—God gave the gift of sex to us WRAPPED IN SOULS
        - He/she is a PERSON...they have a SOUL
          - v.16—see him use the word “HER”!?
        - You ever wondered about the stories of the people who you click on and watch—who their parents are, what their hurts are, what their dreams are, what led them here?
      - This can lead us all the way to preferring FANTASY PEOPLE over REAL PEOPLE
        - John Mayer Interview—rather have porn than actual sex
          - Do you see who he’s dating?! The people on the magazines!
      - It ROBBS us of full joy
        - Going this way sexually robs us of the joy of knowing what it is like to grow in FULL relationship with someone—emotionally, spiritually, relationally
        - God meant us to know deep, full joyful relationships with others.

- v.17—Paul is trying to help us connect spiritual realities with sexual realities
  - How we get joined to Christ in salvation is the picture to which our joining to one another in sex points.
    - Sex—a man rises, enters into his bride and then fills her for the sake of bringing forth new life.
    - Salvation—Jesus Christ rises, enters into his bride and fills her with the Holy Spirit for the sake of bringing forth new life
  - All the love, commitment, passion of God toward us in Christ is meant to be pictured in our pursuit of our spouses through sex.
  - In light of the design of sex ONLY INSIDE of covenant love, what is lust?
    - To look at the opposite sex and long to have from them what you do not have the covenant rights to—this is sexual but also so much more (emotional, relational, etc.)
- Flee Sexual Immorality Because Christ Purchased You With His Blood (v.18-20)
  - Our bodies are not OUR bodies but GOD’S BODIES...GLORIFY GOD WITH YOUR BODY!
  - “You are not your own”
    - You are not God and you are not ENTITLED to appease your cravings!
      - Your body was made for God...not for you!
      - Why do you have a body—to glorify God (not eat a cheeseburger, get a tan, have abs, etc)
  - “temple of the Holy Spirit”
    - Not a temple to Aphrodite where you go to INDULGE yourself.
    - A temple of the Holy Spirit, testifying to Christ, where you go to DIE to yourself!
  - “bought with a price”—Paul drags the sin to the foot of the cross!
    - The only weapon that Paul puts forth to wield against sexual sin is the weapon of Christ’s cross and shed blood!
      - Other sin = fight
      - Sexual sin = flee (flee from sin and darkness to Christ!)
    - Could have said, “you are not your own,”...you were made...you were created..instead, he says you were BOUGHT!
    - REDEMPTION is what motivates us toward holiness!
      - 1 Peter 1:18-19—you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.
    - It was all the death and hell packed into temptation and wicked desires and destructive behaviors that was put to death in the death of Christ for all who believe!
  - Our outward life is an indicator of our inward life!
    - Where no purity and transformation is happening in the life, rest assured, transformation and conversion has not taken place in the heart
  - Philippians 3:17-19—walking this way is to be “an enemy of the cross” whose “end is destruction”
    - This out to be a reality check for us! Is your God Jesus or is your god your appetite?
    - Moms, Dads, Grandmas, Grandpas—will your kids and grandkids stand over your casket testifying of your genuine, single-focused love for Jesus or stand there sadly dealing with the fact that you loved X,Y or Z more than him?

- **How to Flee from Sexual Immorality:**
- **Flee sexual sin through VIBRANT relationship with Jesus**
  - What will NOT equip to you survive the sexual onslaught of culture is RULES
  - What will equip you is a new and renewing heart in love with Jesus, being led by Jesus
- **Flee sexual sin through the hard work of pursuing your spouse**
  - Clicking a link is WAY HARDER than pursuing your spouse's heart,
  - Men, don't touch what isn't yours. Don't take what isn't yours!
- **Flee sexual sin through confession and repentance**
  - If your spouse opens up and brings this into the light, will you please afford the same love and grace that has been given you by Christ?
  - Proverbs 6:27—can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?
- **Flee sexual sin through reveling in the glory of the cross**
  - Jesus, who lived a completely perfect life, on our behalf yet goes to the cross and absorbs all the wrath due your past, present and future sin...COVERED!
  - All of it—covered; bill paid in full!