

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LOVE IN A LOVELESS WORLD

Lesson 12 – How do I distinguish love from lust?

Key Texts – 1 Corinthians 6:13, 18-20; Rom 13:13

What types of role models for love are set before us? (Good or bad)

What deficient forms of love blind us to what love really should be?

Love set forth in the life of _____ from most of the reality around us.

God's Design

One of the great wonders of life is the attraction _____ to each other. – Proverbs 30:18-20

Two Viewpoints exist on love and sex: The _____ viewpoint & _____ viewpoint.

I. The World's Viewpoint:

- Society not only smiles at sexual sin, it _____ it – Prov. 30:20.
- Life is a _____ in which rules are constantly _____.
- Sex is _____, don't take it seriously.
- Men & women look for _____ of enjoyment in sex without _____.
- How can something that feels so right be so wrong? – “There is a way which is right unto a man but the _____.” Prov. 14:12, 16:25

The world mocks Biblical truths regarding immorality. Regardless, we must make _____ based on _____ or _____.

What is the basic pattern of the world and its expectations in the area of love?

The world is _____, expecting others to initiate love or reciprocate affection shown.

The world's concept of love is based on _____.

If it _____.

- There is a choice involved - a choice of whom I serve - _____: Prov. 23:26-28; Romans 1:21ff; Deut. 30:17-20; Joshua 24:14-15; Rom 6:12-16
- The foundation of all the warnings involving sex (in Proverbs) is to _____ to the Word of God: Prov. 2:16-22; 3:13-18; 4:4-9; 5:1-2; 6:20-24; 7:1-5.

II. God's viewpoint of immorality

A. Biblical Terminology:

1. Immorality and Fornication- *porneia*, harlotry, incest, adultery, sexual misconduct, illicit sexual intercourse... 1 Cor. 6:13, 18-20, Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3
2. Lust- *epithumia*, a longing or desire of any kind, Rom. 6:12; 2 Tim 2:22
3. Adultery- *moichao*, Adultery is unlawful sex with the spouse of another or with someone who is not your spouse. This fits within the broader word fornication or immorality. – Matt. 5:28
4. Sensual- *aselgia*, wanton, filthy, licentious, ready for pleasure, one who does what he wants, 2 Pet 2:2; 1 Pet 4:3;
5. Sexual promiscuity- *koite*, bed chambering, co-habiting, couch - Gal 5:19; Eph 4:19

B. THE ROOT: where does sexual immorality come from? It comes from a perversion of God's created intent for man and woman.

1. God created you with a sex drive; humans are sexual creatures. Sex is not wrong or dirty; It is part of God's created intent for mankind.

2. Sex is not the issue; the issue is _____.
When sin entered the world man died spiritually. As unbelievers we had nothing but the flesh left in control. The desires of the flesh never change – Eph. 2:3, 1 John 2:15

III. Why, with clear teaching, are we making the wrong decisions sexually?

- Failure to understand the _____ – Rom. 6:11-13
- Over enculturation with _____ – 1 John 2:15-16
- Looking for _____ in wrong places – Colossians 3:1-5
- _____ because of disillusionment with what we perceive to be biblical truth – Heb. 12:15
- Failure to walk _____ – Galatians 5:16-23
- _____ – Col. 2:3-10

WHAT IS APPROPRIATE?

1. God looks at more than your outward actions: (Matt 5:28) God is interested in what takes place in the _____.
2. Treat each other as _____ 1 Tim. 5:2
- treat the older women as mothers, {and} the younger women as sisters, in all purity.
3. What I do with others matters.

IV. How do I not sin?

- A. Understanding, resting, and living in the _____, which includes my position – Rom. 6:1-7, Col. 3:5, Gal. 5:16, Eph. 5:18, Eph. 4:30, 1 Thess. 5:19.
- B. _____ - 2 Tim 2:22; Romans 13:14
Eph 5:3-5. (Run from youthful lusts, Make no provision for the flesh, Avoid private places, Use the internet intelligibly and wisely, with accountability if necessary, Guard what you watch and talk about, be students of God's word – Ps. 119:9, 11, Matt. 4:1-11.
- C. _____ – remembering important truths:
 1. Don't think that you are above failure. 1 Cor 10:12
 2. This issue is common to us all. 1 Cor 10:13
 3. God is faithful. 1 Cor 10:13, James 4:6-8

V. What if I have failed already?

- Virtue is not a matter of the _____ of your heart.
 - Christ came to instill virtue in fallen sinners – John 4:5-26, 8:1-11
 - Is failure the end of the line? _____ – that is what the _____ of God is all about!
– to bring healing and restoration to a fallen world.
 - I need to _____ and rest in His _____.
 - I need to admit that my failures may bring _____ or difficult adjustments to marriage & other aspects of life.
 - I need to walk in the _____ and be forthright about my _____.
 - I need to believe God will bring _____ to my life.
- Proverbs 24:16 reminds us that God is a God of mercy and grace first, judgment second.
Proverbs 13:12; Have the courage to wait for God's timing in your relationships.

BOTTOM LINE: Lust, though _____, deteriorates and destroys life. Love, though at times appears inconvenient, _____ life.
