



Date: April 28, 2019

Scripture: Ephesians 5:3-14

Summary of the Ephesians Sermons

1. God's Will – Start Here __Tapestry
2. The Jar – ALL THINGS __in Him __A Guarantee
3. Our Glue __The Holy Spirit
4. MEGA Power
5. Believe the Promises, Live to prove it
6. He Himself is our Peace
7. The Mystery Made Clear
8. Paul's prayer
9. Already Reconciled, Walk Worthy
10. Built to Build (Gifted to Serve)
11. Transformation Cultivation
12. Tune in to Tap in – The Holy Spirit
13. Family Identity – Be Imitators of our Father

Do any of these stand out?

Which was most meaningful?

What in particular connected with you?



This Sunday's sermon on Ephesians 5:3-14 spoke about discernment.

“Discernment in Scripture is the skill that enables us to differentiate. It is the ability to see issues clearly. We desperately need to cultivate this spiritual skill that will enable us to know right from wrong. We must be prepared to distinguish light from darkness, truth from error, best from better, righteousness from unrighteousness, purity from defilement, and principles from pragmatics.” Fan The Flame, J. Stowell, Moody, 1986, p. 44¹

Some believe that our attitudes today are worse than ever. In my opinion, I think this is an overstatement. Sexual sin has been rampant since the Fall (See Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19). During Jesus' day, attitudes were also very lax (anything goes- see Cicero and Demosthenes quotes below).¹ Ephesians 5 challenged Christians living in an extremely pagan environment to exercise discernment with regard to their sexuality. Surely this remains a tremendous challenge for us today.

1. How do we do so?
2. How are we to think about sexually oriented humor? (Eph 5:3-4) [Try watching a Sitcom and counting how many times the humor is sexual in nature].
3. What are some ways that we as Christians sin sexually even if not having an affair?ⁱⁱ
4. How can our marriages and relationships shine as a light into this dark world?
5. What are some of the standards that you have put into play in your life to live as salt and light in a highly sexualized culture?
6. Why do you think sexuality is such a big deal – i.e. Why would Satan go after it so intensely? (Hint read further in Ephesians 5 and see what the mystery of the marriage union represents)
7. How do we arrive at our position on the nature of marriage?
8. What portions of these verses Mark 10; Genesis 1:26–28, Genesis 2:15–25 indicate our position?

¹ Galaxie Software, [10,000 Sermon Illustrations](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2002).



Check out the Message's Periphrastic "Translation" of this section.

[Ephesians 5:1–14](#) (The Message)

¹Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents.

²Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

³Don't allow love to turn into lust, setting off a downhill slide into sexual promiscuity, filthy practices, or bullying greed.

⁴Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, those who follow Jesus have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect.

⁵You can be sure that using people or religion or things just for what you can get out of them—the usual variations on idolatry—will get you nowhere, and certainly nowhere near the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom of God.

⁶Don't let yourselves get taken in by religious smooth talk. God gets furious with people who are full of religious sales talk but want nothing to do with him.

⁷Don't even hang around people like that.

⁸You groped your way through that murk once, but no longer. You're out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it!

⁹The good, the right, the true—these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours.

¹⁰Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.

¹¹Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are.

¹²It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see.

¹³Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ.

¹⁴Wake up from your sleep, Climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light!



See Further

- <https://www.compellingtruth.org/marriage-constitutes.html>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/monogamy-Bible.html>

ⁱ **Cicero**

[48] “But if there be any one who thinks that youth is to be wholly interdicted from amours with courtesans, he certainly is very strict indeed. I cannot deny what he says; but still he is at variance not only with the licence of the present age, but even with the habits of our ancestors, and with what they used to consider allowable. For when was the time that men were not used to act in this manner? when was such conduct found fault with? when was it not permitted? when, in short, was the time when that which is lawful was not lawful? Here, now, I will lay down what I consider a general rule: I will name no woman in particular;

I will leave the matter open for each of you to apply what I say as he pleases.”

¹ M. Tullius Cicero, *The Orations of Marcus Tullius Cicero, Literally Translated by C. D. Yonge, B. A.*, ed. C. D. Yonge (Medford, MA: George Bell & Sons, York Street, Covent Garden, 1891), 268.

Demosthenes

“For this is what living with a woman as one’s wife means—to have children by her and to introduce the sons to the members of the clan and of the deme, and to betroth the daughters to husbands as one’s own. Mistresses we keep for the sake of pleasure, concubines for the daily care of our persons, but wives to bear us legitimate children and to be faithful guardians of our households.”

Demosthenes with an English Translation by Norman W. DeWitt, Ph.D., and Norman J. DeWitt, Ph.D., Speeches (English) (Medford, MA: Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press; London, William Heinemann Ltd., 1949).

ⁱⁱ **How do we as Christians sexually sin?**

- We objectify our spouses when we begin to think that they are only here for our pleasure. Thus we become self-absorbed, grumpy, and engage in self-pity for lack of our own fulfillment.
- We sin by consistently indulging in our work to the point of exhaustion, leaving nothing left for them at the end of the day, thus denying them the full strength of the passion we have for them.
- We deny them their due by making their needs secondary.
- We deny them their full value by wanting to rush into the physical gratification before allowing for the full emotional connection.
- We sin sexually by dropping little barbed comments, that masque a greater need. Instead, we should communicate kindly, gently, openly, humbly, and transparently so as to express our actual perceptions, expectations, preferences, and desires. No-one can improve if they have no idea what you actually think.
- We sin by watching movie scenes that contain content meant to arouse.
- We sin by looking too long or taking too much pleasure in a smile received. (JKL)