

EPHESIANS

IN CHRIST / IN COMMUNITY

SERMON OUTLINE

Sunday August 21st, 2016

PASTOR DAVID COOKE: Sacred Sexuality
Ephesians 5: 3-14

- **Who's Your Hero?**

Who we imitate is who we become.

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1-2, ESV)

- **Sacred Sexuality**

A. It's A Heart Issue

"But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints." (Ephesians 5:3, ESV)



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B. Out of the overflow of the heart..."

- "...the mouth speaks."

"The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks." (Luke 6:45, ESV)

- It's Serious

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (Ephesians 5:5-6, ESV)

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (Matthew 5: 27-30)



- Light and Darkness

for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.” (Ephesians 5: 8-14)

- Jesus Can Save You

C. In Christ, In Community



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

1. Who have been your hero's in your life? How have they influenced you?
2. Paul indicates imitating God will mean loving others. Where do you see evidence of God's love? How can you imitate that kind of love?
3. "But" is a contrast word. Paul is telling us the opposite of love is sexual immorality, impurity and covetousness. How are these things opposite of each other?
4. Read what Jesus says in Luke 6:45. How does what we do show the state of our heart?
5. In Ephesians 5:5-6, Paul says some pretty harsh things about what happens to people who follow a path of sexual immorality and covetousness. Why is it so serious?
6. How does Paul's imagery of contrasting darkness and light help us understand the gravity of how we live our lives? (Ephesians 5:8-14)
- 7. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Paul writes a similar warning. But in verse 11 he makes clear what our hope is. *"And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."* (1 Corinthians 6:11, ESV) What does Jesus do for a person's life? How does this give you hope for yourself and for others?

