

Culture Wars #3 The Sex Culture

Word

Scripture Reference

Thessalonians 4:3-7; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Discussion Questions

1. We live in a hyper-sexualized society where sex is marketed everywhere: on billboards, TV shows, the movies, best-selling books, and magazines. How does it affect your thoughts and actions?
2. As Christians, it is our responsibility to engage the sexual culture of our society by filtering it through the Word of God. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7. Paul was addressing the hyper-sexualized Roman culture of his time where all sorts of sexual immoralities were encouraged. From this passage we can learn five principles that can help Christians engage to transform a sexual culture. The first principle is that it is God's will for you to live a holy life (v. 3). What did Paul urge the Christians to do? Name some of the sexual activities or relationships that will never allow a person to live a holy life. Why is it so? Discuss God's purpose for creating the sexual relationship.
3. The second principle we need to understand is that each person has a personal responsibility to exercise self control in order to overcome sexual sins. How is self-control possible when sexual temptations abound? As a single person, discuss how you can guard and protect yourself from this problem. As a married person, what are the precautions you need to take to safeguard your marriage from temptation? For parents, how can you talk with your children wisely and age-appropriately to help them have the right concept regarding sex and to keep them from becoming an easy prey of deceitfulness around them?
4. The third principle Paul teaches in the passage is that the key to overcoming sexual sins is to know God (v. 5). How did Paul characterize the heathen in this verse? Discuss how a Christian's sexual conduct should be different from that of the non-believers.
5. In verse 6 we find the fourth principle to engaging a hyper-sexualized culture, and also serves as a strong reminder to overcoming sexual sin,

which is that God judges (v. 6). How does having the wrong desire result in wrong actions? Discuss why acting out your sinful desires is harmful not only to yourself, but to others as well. What are some possible results of God's judgment to those who are involved in sinful sexual relationships?

6. Finally, the fifth principle we need to understand about living in a sexual culture is that the purpose to which we are called as followers of Jesus Christ is to live in holiness (v. 7). A holy life demonstrates God's power at work. How would your personal life testimony affect others? Do you find it uncomfortable to do what is right before the Lord because it doesn't fit the cultural norm of today's society? Are you upfront about your beliefs and convictions in spite of possible criticism from other people?
7. 1 Corinthians 6:15-20 disproves three myths about sexual relationships that many people today accept as truth:
 - (a) *MYTH #1: Sex outside of marriage is okay.* According to the Bible, why is this considered sin (v. 15-16)?
 - (b) *MYTH #2: It's okay if I just look (v. 18).* Read Matthew 5:28 and discuss how Jesus views sin. How does sexual immorality differ from other sins in terms of what the Bible teaches about how to deal with it?
 - (c) *MYTH #3: It's my body; it's my right (v. 19-20).* As a Christian, what makes your body different (v. 15, 19-20)? Sex is not a right; it is a gift from God paid at a very high price by Jesus Christ. How does mass media influence you with the wrong attitude towards your body?

Walk

God created sex to be a beautiful and fundamental component of a marriage relationship between one man and one woman. No matter what culture says, it is sin when it crosses the boundaries God has set for it. Living in sin affects your relationship with God as well as the people around you, especially those whom you love. Ask God to search your heart for any sexual impurities that shows in your thoughts or actions. What are some practical ways you can do to get rid of these impurities and live in holiness instead? What promises can you claim from God's Word to give you the courage and strength to do so?

Worship & Prayer

Pray for...

- For God's people to keep themselves holy and pure, to flee from sexual immorality.
- Full recovery & good biopsy result for IB.
- Good preparations for the church's anniversary celebration.
- Peter's successful cataract operation.
- Grace for RCM's daughter & son-in-law; spiritual healing of Mr. Ong and Mr. Lim.