

# Walk in Love – Part II

(Ephesians 5:1-7)

## I. Walk in Love (Agape)

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And **walk in love**, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

## II. Walk Not in Lust (Not-Eros)

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

### NIV

1. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2. and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, **but rather thanksgiving.**

5. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7. **Therefore do not be partners with them.**

## I. Cultural Concern – *no hint of sexual immorality, fitting saints*

NKJV 3 **But** fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

NIV 3. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed (lust), because these are improper for God's holy people. 4. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

### **Pure Intimacy** –

Sacred Romance – John Eldredge

“Every man who **knocks on the door of a brothel** is looking for God.” G.K. Chesterton.  
“There is only One Being who can satisfy the last aching **abyss of the human heart**, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.” – Oswald Chambers

**Saint Augustine** – We are restless until we rest in thee.

**Blaise Pascal** (1623-1662) insightfully said,  
“There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus”

"What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

Jeremiah 2:13 Forsaken me and carved broken cisterns that can hold no water.

1. Genesis 6:5 Noah's Day
2. Genesis 18:20 Sodom and Gomorrah
3. Israel's Sin(s) – 10 Commandments, worship creature
4. **Matthew 5:28 – to look on to lust after in heart**
5. Rome (moral corruptions) (Romans 1:22-32)
6. Ephesus (situational background, Artemus/Diana, Greek:Aphrodite)
7. Corinth – I Cor 6:9-20, I Cor. 10:8, 2 Cor. 12:21
8. Revelation - Revelation 2:20 Jezebel seduced my servants

## II. Condemnation of Actions (porneo)

*Everything is about sex in this passage*

### Word Study

- a. Fornication (physical) “porneo” pre-marital sex
- b. Uncleaness (physical) 6 other scriptures (all sex deviations)

### Parallel Scriptures

- Galatians 5:19-20 acts of sinful nature, sex immorality, impurity debauchery.
- Ephesians 4:19 every kind of uncleanness, impurity & covetousness,
- Colossians 3:5 Sex immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed
- Romans 1:24-32 God gave them over, then gave them up to...
- Romans 6:19 slaves to sex sins, body parts given over, ever-increasing impurity
- 2 Corinthians 12:21 grieved over many who sinned earlier and did not repent of impurity, sexual sins, and debauchery.
- James 1:21 superfluity of naughtiness, moral filth

- c. Coveteousness (mental) not greed, but covet (10<sup>th</sup> Command)
- d. Obscene talk (verbal) – sensual talk, vulgar, body parts
- e. Foolish talk (verbal) – “moros” – crude sophomoric humor
- f. Coarse joking (verbal) – immoral jokes, laugh at sin, sex

### (Other useful words)

Lasciviousness, Licentiousness, wontonness, inordinate affection, filthiness, superfluity of naughtiness, excess of riot, debauchery, dissipation, etc.

## **Sexual Sin in the Church, the body of Christ, the family of God, the house of God.**

(ie) **The Frog in the Kettle:** Cold water slowly warmed to a boil will kill without alarming the victim.

### **I John 2:15-17**

15. Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. 17. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

### **Romans 12:1-2**

1. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. 2. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### III. Consequence

NIV 5. For of this you can be sure: **No immoral, impure or greedy person**--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for **because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient**. 7. Therefore do not be partners with them.

**1. Pastoral Concerns – *lostness or losing salvation*.** Jude 1:23 license to commit immorality – real believers hate garments spotted by the flesh (battle, but hate their own sin)

1. Pig from its mire, dog to its vomit (2 Peter 2:10-22)
2. Let him that stands take heed lest he fall (1 Cor 10:6-13)
3. Immorality is with us. Flesh is stuck on you. (James 1:12-14)
4. Grace of God into license for immorality (Jude 1:4,8-16)

**Knowing the 10 Commandments won't help  
Knowing the Commander in Chief will.**

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

**2. Pastoral Concerns – Causing others to sin**

*We are all in this cesspool together. (not throwing stones)*

*How many good men and women, pastors, elders, musicians, teachers have fallen!?*

*“Jezebel - Cause my servants to commit adultery.” – Rev. 2:20*

To the men – porno – lust, desire, passions, etc.(visuals!)

To the women – dress apparel, woman's coveteousness, hero worship, alpha male  
(ie) College women's major needs: be smart, be fulfilled, be hot

To married – drink deeply from your own wells, crisis, conflict

To parents – don't let kids make own decisions, boundaries of protection

To singles – abstinence, at risk, preyed on, targeted, exposed.

To teens – abstinence, at risk, preyed on, targeted, exposed.

**3. Pastoral Concerns: Dangerous Liaisons**

To living together singles – recently saved,

To sexually active singles – once opened Pandora's box

To romantic and sexually tempted adults – flee, run, change jobs, reject

To those in throws of an affair – mental, emotional, romantic, physical

Anatomy of an Affair – handout (I Corinthians 10:12-13)

## IV. Correction & Conclusion

*"Therefore do not be partakers with them." (vrs 7)  
vrs 3-4. No hint of sexual immorality as fitting for saints, but rather  
thanksgiving."*

### **How can thanksgiving be an antidote to covetousness, lusts, and secret evil sexual desires?**

It is an antidote for covetousness –

*"Thou shalt not covet your neighbor's wife."*

**(ie) Garden of Eden** – all these trees but one forbidden looked better. It is still the forbidden fruit, the feeling of being cheated, short-changed, left out, getting the short end of the straw, that breeds covetousness. A thankful heart that is set upon the Lord is not dissatisfied to need spoil.

1. **Make up your mind** – *no hint of sexual impurity among you as fitting for saints but thanksgiving. I've been bought, washed, transformed, saved, made holy, indwelt by Holy Spirit of God. Woe is me! "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" I am holy to the Lord and for the Lord. A covenant with my eyes. Job 31:1 A covenant with my lips. A covenant with my hands. A covenant with my mind.*

**"Don't touch the Charmin!" – "Don't touch the plumbing!"  
"Get your mind above your belt." "Keep your zipper up."**

2. **Make it right**

Repent – I'm wrong: real brokenness, restitution & restoration

Marry rather than burn - 1 Cor. 7:9

Make Boundaries – clarify your boundaries of allowable behavior

3. **Move away from temptation – run, burn bridges**

*Flee Potiphar's wife - Genesis 39:1*

*Run for your life - 2 Timothy 2:22*

*Get out of Dodge – not like David*

### **RESPONSE:**

5. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." 6. Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." (Isaiah 6:5-7)

**Closing Song:** *I Repent, Making No Excuses*

# I Repent

I regret the hours I have wasted  
and the pleasures I have tasted  
that you were never in.

And I confess that though your love is in me,  
it doesn't always win me when competing with my sin.

## CHORUS

And I repent, making no excuses.  
I repent no one else to blame.  
And I return to fall in love with Jesus.  
I bow down on my knees and I repent.

I lament the idols I've accepted,  
the commandments I've rejected  
to pursue my selfish end.  
And I confess I need you to revive me,  
put selfishness behind me and take up my cross again.

And I return to fall in love with Jesus.  
I bow down on my knees and I repent.

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# Anatomy of an Affair

## *Keep your heart with all diligence.*

What did Jesus teach and interpret regarding the command? He taught that every sin has its root cause, its predecessor, is in our thoughts and desires. No one ever had an affair without thinking about it first. It begins in the thoughts, then the emotions, and finally in the body.

- Matthew 5:27 Jesus addresses the **root cause** of “adultery” is lust, desire, and coveting.
- Matthew 15:19 For **out of the heart** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:
- James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is **drawn away** of his own lust, and enticed.

❖ **Physical Attraction** – (secret fantasies) The eye has desires and breeds fantasies. The desire to have what one sees. Has God said “no”? Why has he said “no”? Why is he holding some earthly pleasure from me that will make me fulfilled or satisfied? Dreaming about someone can be very dangerous. “But I have no control of that!” No, but repeated fantasies tell us what is really going on in our heart of hearts.

❖ **Flirtation** - (secret fishing) Flirting is an innocent schoolyard skill developed early in life. Chasing girls in the playground, hitting girls, tag, or teasing are all flirtations. Later it becomes smiling, flattery, winking, goo-goo eyes, joking, dressing to attract, being cute. Guard how you dress or put on make up. Why are you doing it?

❖ **Intimacy** – (secret conversations) Private conversation with someone who is not your wife/husband. Exchange of personal intimacies. Having a **close friend** of the opposite sex is always a dangerous thing. Adulteries usually take place with someone close to you, a neighbor, best friend, close colleague. E-mail intimacies. Cell phone intimacies. Guard your **relationships**.

❖ **Declarations** – (secret romance) Revealing affection for a person *“I’m really crazy about like you I like being with you. I missed you. I like talking to you. You are really special to me. I wish I had married someone like you. Where were you before I got married?”* Romantic affections always precede adultery. Guard your **confessions**.

❖ **Tender Touches** (secret fondness) A touch can be a powerful thing, to some it is like electricity, sparks, wind on flames or embers. Promiscuously “leaning,” “hugging” “caressing,” “physical touch” or “a kiss,” are all extremely dangerous liaisons. The song says, “Kiss is just a kiss” - not so, a kiss is a powerful thing. A touch can be like an electric current, a thrill, a turn-on. **Guard you touches**.

❖ **Private Meetings** (secret rendezvous) Meetings in secret, behind closed doors. Your spouse doesn’t know about it, and wouldn’t be happy if he/she did. Whether for a business meeting, a cup of coffee, or “meet me in my room”, or “Can you come in for a moment?” All such meetings are private for intimacy and lead to immorality.

# Scripture NIV

## **Matthew 5:28**

28. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

## **Galatians 5:19-21**

19. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;  
20. idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions  
21. and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

## **Ephesians 4:19**

19. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

## **Colossians 3:5**

5. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

## **2 Corinthians 12:21**

21. I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.

## **I Peter 4:3**

3. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 4. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.

## **James 1:21**

21. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

## **Jude 1:4** Turning the grace of God into lasciviousness

4. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. ...7. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

## **Revelation 2:20**

20. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. 21. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. 22. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.

**Romans 1:24-32** God gave them over, then gave them up to...

21. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22.

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23. and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

24. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen. 26. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

28. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30. slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31. they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

**Romans 6:19** slaves to sex sins, body parts given over, ever-increasing impurity

19. I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

Isaiah 6:1-7

1. In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4. At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." 6. Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."