

The Gospel and Purity: Honouring God with our Sexuality

1. Purity today - Problems, Pandemics and Possibilities

2. Beauty and Ugliness

i) The Beauty of Holiness

- The God who is beautiful in Holiness

Psalm 96:1-9

*Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the
peoples!
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be
praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are
worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.*

*Splendour and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the
peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his
name;
bring an offering, and come into his
courts!
Worship the Lord in the splendour of
holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!*

- The God who defines His people's Holiness - *Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:16*
- Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God - *Mark 1:24, Luke 4:34, John 6:69; Heb 4:15*
- In whom we are made holy - *1 Corinthians 1:30, 6:9-11*

ii) The Ugliness of Sexual Immorality - 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

- The purpose of our bodies, v12-14
- The reality of our bodies, v15a
- The truth about sexual sin, v15b-17
- Glorifying God with our bodies, v18-20

Conclusion: *More blessed than we understand, and therefore more serious than we imagine*

3. Fighting the Roots of Sin with Gospel Truth

i) The root of sin

Triggers and lies

- Romans 1:25

Worked examples:

ii) Fighting sin with truth

'But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.' Galatians 5:16.

Questions for group discussions

1. Why does our purity of heart and life matter so much to God?
2. How does the person and work of Jesus connect with this area of our discipleship?
3. Why do we struggle in this area? What lies of the world, the flesh and the devil are we most in danger of listening to? Where are we in danger of adopting the world's standards for purity rather than those of Christ?
4. Where do we a) fail to grasp what God says about this and b) refuse to listen to what God says?
5. How can we better serve one another in these areas? Think in terms of
 - i) Our own approach to being helped by others: how open are you to change and people speaking into this area of your life? Specifically, are you able to confess this sin to trusted siblings in Christ?
 - ii) Our own readiness to serve others: are you willing and able to speak truth into other people's lives in this area?
 - iii) Our own ability to concretely serve others: what truths do we need to remind one another of in these areas?
6. How does God's Word guard us against either despair or complacency in this area? How does the gospel both reassure us but challenge us?