



MESSAGE THEME

“Be certain, not deceived!” Ephesians 5:5-8

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SERIES THEME – *Infinitely More Than . . .*

INTRODUCTION

- ***Our culture sexually indoctrinates and seduces continually.***
- An author and pastor (Stephen Whitmer) conducted an informal experiment, watching ten random minutes of a television show popular with teens and young adults in order to see what it would tell him about sex.
- In ten minutes, he heard:
 1. Heterosexual sex outside of marriage is commendable and good.
 2. Homosexual relationships are commendable and good.
 3. It’s fun and exciting to invite someone you don’t know to come on to you sexually.
- The show never said these things explicitly.
 - It glamorized sexual immorality with catchy music.
 - It normalized and trivialized sexual sin with humor. Almost every reference to sex (seven in ten minutes) was a joke.
- Our culture bombards us with sexualized images on social media, YouTube and Instagram shorts, TV, Netflix, and just about every other possible medium.
- But there is a not-so-obvious reality. *Not only does our culture show us sex; it also speaks to us about sex, it propagandizes us regarding sex, it brainwashes us about sex.*
 - Our culture conducts sex education all the time.
 - It is glamorized with music, lights, humor, and excitement surrounding it.
- Proverbs 5:3 says *“The lips of a forbidden woman drips honey, and her speech is smoother than oil.”*
 - This describes our culture and the world system in which we live and how it presents sex outside of God’s design.
- ***Three warnings occur in verses 5-8:***
 1. Exclusion from inheritance in God’s kingdom (v. 5).
 2. Alertness to Satan’s effort to deceive (v. 6).
 3. Don’t partner wrongly (vss. 7-8)

BE CERTAIN vs. 5



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Ephesians 5:5 (ESV) 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.

- Paul says those who habitually live in sexual sin, not an act, but in a lifestyle, do not belong in the kingdom of God.
- Those who are in Christ do not live by that standard of life, that is the way of the world-system, Satan's kingdom, domain of darkness and wrath.

Characteristics

Ephesians 5:5 (ESV) For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), . . .

- Here Paul describes the immoral, impure, and covetous person as an idolater—why?!
- These desires become an object of affection and devotion, at the expense of honoring, obeying, and glorifying God—therefore these objects would be idols and the person would be an idolater.
- Such a lifestyle is understandable for the person who does not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They are dominated and ordered by their sinful flesh, Satan, and the world system of which Satan is the ruler.
- But when we are saved, we are fundamentally changed in our being in that we have become a new creation formed by God, created in His likeness.

Ephesians 4:22–24 (ESV) to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- As fundamentally different **as a butterfly is from a caterpillar**, so is the person who has become a new creation in Jesus Christ through salvation.
- Yet, no Christian should be naïve to the fact that the pull of our pagan past is still there.
- But the unregenerate who practices sexual sins does not represent the kingdom of Christ and God.
 - He classifies himself by his actions of persistent sexual sin.

Belonging

Ephesians 5:5 (ESV) . . . has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.



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- People who live in and for the lifestyle previously described demonstrate that they are not a new creation, that the Holy Spirit lives in them.

Revelation 21:7-8 (ESV) *The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.*"

DON'T BE DECEIVED vs. 6

Ephesians 5:6 (ESV) Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Deception Exposed

- Let know one deceive you with empty words.
- Empty words = speech void of substance or lacking truth.
- The things listed in verses 3-5, God brings His wrath upon those children of disobedience.
- Evidently some were traveling around in the days of the early church teaching that you could live a life of immorality, even though a Christian.
- Gnosticism lent itself toward this lie.
- Gnosticism: *"the thought and practice especially of various cults of late pre-Christian and early Christian centuries distinguished by the conviction that matter is evil, and that wholeness and purity comes through special knowledge of spirituality."*
- John and Paul were writing to combat this heresy.

1 John 3:7-10 *Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 *Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

- We conclude on the authority of God's Word that anyone who is living a sinful life of sensuality and is unwilling to turn from it is lost and has no inheritance in the Kingdom of God and Christ.



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- Such a person is an “idolater” because he has put his sensual desire in the central place only God should occupy.

The Christian and Sin

- The Scriptures are in concert: No practicing sinner, no unrepentant sensualist, has eternal life.
- Do Christians fall into these sins? Of course! But true Christians will not persist in them. True Christians experience conviction.

1 John 1:6–9 (ESV) *If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- Professing Christians who habitually practice these sins, are self-deceived, and invalidate his or her profession.
- If you habitually practice such a life-style, you cannot be confident that you are a child of God with a future possession with Him in His kingdom.

PARTNER RIGHTLY

vss. 7-8

Ephesians 5:7–8 (ESV) *Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light . . .*

- There is a strong contrast between believers and non-believers.
 - Unbelievers set forth plausible ideas devoid of truth itself.
 - Plausible ideas of the lost attempt to make sin palatable.
 - They attempt to portray adultery as an alternative to biblical marriage.
- Christians should not allow themselves to revert into pagan values.
 - There will always be the effort to seduce believers by rationalization.
 - Seducers will sound plausible, even attractive.

- **“But be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children. . .”**

LIST OF JESUS CONDUCT . . .

APPLICATION

What is not being stated?



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- **It is not stating that sexual immorality can't be forgiven or that believers are immune.**
- Nor is it saying that believers who fall into, "immorality, impurity, greed, filthiness, silly talk, and coarse jesting," will lose their salvation.

What is being stated?

- **As God's new creation, all things have become new – live accordingly!**
- Paul is saying that:
 - since God has bestowed on us the riches of His grace,
 - seated us together with Christ in heavenly places,
 - positioned us in Christ by faith,
 - made us one with Himself,
 - and are a new creation after God's likeness,
 - **we should live in a manner that honors His name.**
- As a new creation in God, the old things have passed away, all things have become new.

How then shall we live?

- God's grace by no means extends leniency or liberality towards sexual immorality or other unprincipled acts in the life of a Christian.
- We must never forget that although we are in the world, we are not to be part of the world... nor must fallen man's degenerate behaviors influence us.

John 17:15–18 (ESV) *I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.*

- We are not to be squeezed into the world's mold.
- **Pre-marital, extra-marital, and gay-marital sex, together with every other ungodly or unbiblical practice may be accepted by a community, or embraced by a culture, but they remain an abomination to the Lord.**
- **Christians should not be intimidated by the standard of fallen humanity nor desensitized to sin by the world in which we live - for any sin will cause fellowship with our heavenly Father to be broken.**