

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Message Series:** The Upside Down  
**Message Title:** The Vanishing of Morality  
**Speaker:** Lance Burch  
**Date:** February 5, 2017

### UP NEXT

- **Baptism Sunday** - Our next Baptism Sunday is scheduled for February 19. Sign up at [reality.church/events](http://reality.church/events)
- "Still The One" - We are beginning a new Marriage sermon series on February 19 called "Still the One". Accompanying this series will be the *Married With Benefits* Marriage Conference on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Register online at [www.marriedwithbenefits.org](http://www.marriedwithbenefits.org)

### MAIN IDEA

When it comes to sex... God created us to be lovers and not consumers.

### INTRODUCTION

- If you are anything like me, after spending a few minutes on Facebook, you've contemplated either throwing your phone into a river or hitting yourself in the head with a blunt object. Ok, maybe that's too far.
- However, it doesn't take very long to look out at this world and shake our heads. We wonder "What went wrong?" "Why is everyone so mean?" "Since when do you have to hate someone simply because you disagree with them?"
- It's equally easy to blame Facebook, or whatever platform has given everyone an equal (and barbaric) voice.
- But the bottom line is this... it's not Facebook's fault. It's not the media's fault (well maybe a little). It's not even other people's faults... The fault is us. That's right, YOU and ME.
- This week we're going to discuss what happens when we live life focused on ourselves more than others.

### DISCUSSION

- Have someone read our main passage ([1 John 2:15-17](#))
  - Verse 16 (depending on your Bible translation) says something like "Lust of the flesh" or "craving for physical pleasure).
  - What would you say are some of the modern cravings for physical pleasure that plague our culture today?
  - Don't skip this question... Of those answers just given, which one do you struggle with more than the others? (*Be honest, you're among friends who understand*).
- Have someone read ([Galatians 5:13-26](#))
  - In **verses 13-15**, The Apostle Paul is writing to a group of believers who were at each other's throats. Think Facebook when someone posts their opinion. Why do you think it is that Christians have been battling each other for so long?
  - Paul also speaks of Freedom. In terms of those things that John would qualify as "Lust of the flesh", what freedoms do we have as Christians?
    - Paul's caution here is a valid one: Christian Liberty is not a license to sin but rather an opportunity to serve.

- In **verses 16-18**, Paul speaks about a war waging within us. A battle between our Spirit and our Flesh.
  - Do you think it is possible to overcome/overpower our sinful nature? The correct answer is NO. Yet how often do we as Christian try to defeat the sin in us?
  - Paul then goes on to list three different categories of sins we might fall into when we focus on our flesh and our pleasure: (your Bible version may vary, but these are the sins).
    - Sensual Sins:
      - Adultery (*illicit sex among married people*)
      - Fornication (*illicit sex among unmarried people*)
      - Impurity (*filthiness of heart and mind that makes a person defiled*)
      - Lustful Pleasures (*also debauchery: a wanton appetite that knows no shame*).
    - Superstitious Sins:
      - Idolatry (*anything or anyone that takes its place before God*)
      - Sorcery (*or witchcraft: from the Greek pharmakeia where we get our word "pharmacy". Basically turning to substances to medicate*).
    - Social Sins:
      - Hostility (*Hatred towards others*)
      - Quarreling & Jealousy (*rivalries with others*)
      - Outbursts of anger (*Wrath toward other people*)
      - Selfish Ambition (*Self-seeking, putting your needs above others*)
      - Dissension & Division (*fixing sides where there are typically winners and losers in everything*)
      - Envy (*Holding grudges, desiring other people's things*)
      - Drunkenness (*obvious*)
      - Wild sex parties (*orgies*)
- In **verses 22-23** he lists the opposite of many of these sins. He's basically saying , "Now these things... do them as often as you want. There is no law that limits the amount of good you can do to other people."
  - This list of Holy Spirit given qualities include: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
  - Why is there no law against these things?
- In **verses 24-26**; why is it important to know that we don't have to try and overcome our sin.
  - Answer: Christ already overcame our sinful desire & nature with his death on the cross.
- In what ways have you seen our culture misuse sex? Is our culture's fascination with sex naturally a bad thing, or an originally good thing turned bad? Is the Bible's warnings against sexual immorality only for heinous sexual sin? Or is it for everyone? What are you (or your family) doing to decrease the demand of sexual sin in our culture?

### APPLY IT .....

- Remember - even if you're not convinced this message is for you, take note because someday you will realize it is.
- Repent - For those who are convinced, how are you repenting and moving forward in God's grace?

**rightnow** MEDIA

### RECOMMENDED RESOURCE SEXUAL BROKENNESS - by John Stonestreet

Sexual Brokenness is an introductory study on the biblical teaching about sex and its place in the divine economy. Inspired by Chuck Colson's final series, Renewing Virtue, John Stonestreet dives into the virtue of love by discussing and breaking down sexual brokenness.

Visit [reality.church/rightnow](http://reality.church/rightnow) to login or request access.