

Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians 7
Christian Sexuality

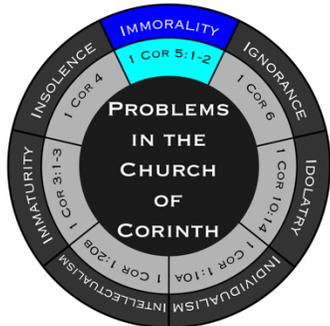
ONE THING

Every departure from BIBLICAL MORALITY always leads to CORRUPTION and IMMORALITY

1. The CULTURAL OBSESSION with sexuality

Throughout this letter the Apostle has dealt clearly and Biblically with immorality...

→ Pic 2 – Immorality



Regarding this topic Paul has been very clear...

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (ESV) — ... Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ... will inherit the

kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Corinth was a very metropolitan city.

It was the LA, New York, or Las Vegas of that day.

Immorality was rampant

In fact, the Greek verb, “korinthiazomai”, meaning, “to act like a Corinthian”, was a verb used for sexual immorality.

Like Corinth and so many other places throughout the world and throughout history, America, I believe has given itself over to other gods...

79% of Americans say, “people can believe whatever they want, as long as those beliefs don’t affect society.”

Only 35% believe moral truth is objective and absolute

69% say any kind of sexual expression between two consenting adults is acceptable.

In 2004 60% of Americans opposed same-sex marriage.

In 2019 61% of Americans support same-sex marriage.

The fastest growing religious demographic in America is those who have no religious affiliation

In Canada, the C-4 bill went into effect on January 8...

It describes as “myth” the belief that heterosexuality and cisgender identity are preferable.

According to Fox News, “Counseling that does not align with such a worldview now carries a potential five-year jail sentence.”

America is in a spiritual pandemic...

We are imploding from the bottom up and the top down!

But how exactly did we get here...

The Seven Mountains of Cultural Influence...

Pic 3 – Seven Mountain Names



Pic 4 – Seven Mountain Truth



First, we fell for the...

→ The Humanistic Delusion

Romans 1:18–23 (ESV) — 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

So what did the Lord do?

→ The Sexual Devolution!

Romans 1:24–25 (ESV) — Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

In the 60’s we saw, what was described as the “Sexual Revolution”

Along with it came a meteoric rise in STDs and Drug abuse

Prayer was removed from our public schools...

Any religious symbols were removed from display on public property...

Fourteen year-old girls couldn't pray in school, but she could get condoms and birth-control pills without parental consent...

This devolution gave way to ...

→ *The Sexual Perversion!*

Romans 1:26–27 (ESV) — For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

This tsunami of open immorality and rejection of God's laws is resulting in ...

→ *Cultural Devastation!*

Romans 1:28–32 (ESV) — And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

The Seven Mountains of Cultural Influence...

How did we get here?

Pic 3 – Seven Mountain Names



The Seven Mountains of Culture

1. Religion
2. Government
3. Business
4. Education
5. Media
6. Arts & Entertainment
7. Family

Every departure from Biblical morality always leads to corruption and immorality

1. The CULTURAL OBSESSION with sexuality.

2. The CORRUPTING OVERSTEP against sexuality

It appears, based upon Paul's comments in this chapter that the believers had swung the pendulum too far in the extreme...

They knew the problem of immorality in their culture and wanted to alleviate it from the believers...

As a result, some began teaching that they should completely abstain from all sexual relations...

- **The Single remain celibate**

- **The Married refrain from sexual relations with their spouse**
- **The Engaged break their engagement and remain single**
- **If married to an unbeliever, divorce your spouse and remain single...**

This overstep was creating greater corruption...

This form of “Morality” followed the STOIC Greek philosophers...

Greek Philosophy is first built upon this primase

The soul is trapped within an evil body

Stoic philosophy – Depriving the body of all pleasure is the only way to control the body

Many of the Corinthian believers were following this idea which resulted in the CORRUPTING OVERSTEP against sexuality...

A reaction within the Corinthian Church against this teaching was those who were following the Epicurean philosophers...

Epicurean philosophy – Release the soul from any obligations to the body by letting the body run wild

Some in the Church mistook grace as allowing this type of behavior...

1 Corinthians 5:1–2 (ESV) — It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to

mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

Every departure from Biblical morality always leads to corruption and immorality

1. The CULTURAL OBSESSION with sexuality.

2. The CORRUPTING OVERSTEP against sexuality.

3. The CORRECTING OBEDIENCE regarding sexuality

1 Corinthians 7:1–2 (ESV) — Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

➤ **Single**

- **Abstain from sexual relations**

1 Corinthians 7:1 (ESV) — Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”

Paul here is not advocating singleness, but simply stating that it is a valid way to serve the Lord...

- **Celebrate the gift of celibacy**

1 Corinthians 7:6–7 (ESV) — Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. I wish that all were as I myself am. But

each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

By Paul saying this in the midst of sexual self-control, he is making a very important statement...

The sexual self-control Paul is referring to comes from the Holy Spirit, NOT from a determined will!

- **Don't be afraid to marry**

1 Corinthians 7:8–9 (ESV) — To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

➤ **Engaged**

1 Corinthians 7:25–28 (ESV) — Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.

- **Abstain from sexual relations until married**
- **You are free to marry**
- **Marriage is difficult**

➤ **Married w/ believer**

- **Fulfill your sexual responsibility**

1 Corinthians 7:3–4 (ESV) — The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

- **Refrain from all sexual immorality**

1 Corinthians 7:5 (ESV) — Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

- **Marriage is a lifelong commitment**

1 Corinthians 7:10–11 (ESV) — To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

“Marry the one you love” – BASED ON EMOTION

“Love the one you marry” – BASED ON COMMITMENT

- **Marriage is difficult**

1 Corinthians 7:27–28 (ESV) — Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a

wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.

1 Corinthians 7:32–35 (ESV) — I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

➤ **Married w/ unbeliever**

1 Corinthians 7:12–16 (ESV) — To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

- **Your first priority is the Lord**

- **You have a missional opportunity**

1 Peter 3:1–2 (ESV) — Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

Every departure from Biblical morality always leads to corruption and immorality

January 19, 2022

Crossgates – Sermon

David Jett

Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians 7
Christian Sexuality

1. The _____ **with sexuality**

2. The _____ **against sexuality**

3. The _____ **regarding sexuality**