



Study Guide: “SEXUAL IMMORALITY” (Part 3) | “Sexual Violation”

Key Takeaways:

- God's moral standards have not changed, even though we're under a new covenant.
- As believers, we are called to live by a higher standard of holiness.
- Sexual immorality includes any sexual activity outside of God's design for marriage.
- Holiness is not something we achieve, but a position we live from in Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. Pastor Ricks emphasizes that this teaching is about living to a higher standard. How does this perspective change the way we approach topics like sexual morality??
2. Reflect on the difference between "working for holiness" and "walking from holiness." How does this shift in mindset impact your daily life?
3. We learned in this week's sermon that God's moral expectations remain the same, even though the covenant has changed. How do we reconcile God's unchanging standards with the grace we receive through Christ?
4. How can we, as believers, maintain a distinct lifestyle in a world that often promotes values contrary to God's word?
5. Pastor Ricks stated in the sermon, "Genuine love does not require agreement or approval of behavior." How can we show love to others without compromising our beliefs or God's standards?

Practical Applications:

- This week, identify one area in your life where you need to "walk from holiness" rather than trying to achieve it through your own efforts.
- Memorize 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 as a reminder of God's will for our sanctification and sexual purity.

5-Day Bible Reading Plan & Devotional Guide

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Day 1: "Living in Holiness"

Bible Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-16 (AMP)

Devotional: God calls us to be holy, just as He is holy. This isn't about perfection, but about setting ourselves apart for God's purposes. Reflect on areas of your life where you can grow in holiness. How can you align your thoughts, actions, and desires more closely with God's will? Remember, holiness isn't achieved through our own efforts, but through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in us. Pray for God to reveal areas where you need to grow and for the strength to pursue holiness in your daily life.

Day 2: “The Power of God's Word”

Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (AMP)

Devotional: The Bible is God's inspired word, breathed out by Him for our instruction and growth. In a world full of conflicting voices and opinions, God's word stands as our unwavering truth and guide. How often do you turn to Scripture for guidance, comfort, and wisdom? Challenge yourself to spend more time in God's word this week, allowing it to shape your thoughts and actions. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Scriptures as you read, revealing God's heart and will for your life.

Day 3: “Walking in the Spirit”

Bible Reading: Galatians 5:16-25 (NKJV)

Devotional: As believers, we're called to walk in the Spirit, allowing Him to guide our actions and produce His fruit in our lives. This includes self-control, which is crucial in resisting temptation and living a life that honors God. Reflect on the fruit of the Spirit listed in this passage. Which characteristic do you see growing in your life? Which ones need more cultivation? Ask God to help you yield more fully to Holy Spirit's work in your life, especially in areas where you struggle with self-control.

Day 4: “God's Grace in Our Weakness”

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NKJV)

Devotional: We all have areas of weakness and struggle, but God's grace is sufficient for us. His power is made perfect in our weakness. Instead of being discouraged by our shortcomings, we can view them as opportunities for God's strength to shine through. What areas of weakness are you currently facing? How might God want to use these to demonstrate His power and grace? Surrender these areas to God, asking Him to work through your weaknesses for His glory.

Day 5: “Living as New Creations in Christ”**Bible Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NKJV)

Devotional: In Christ, we are new creations. The old has gone, the new has come. This transformation isn't just a one-time event, but an ongoing process as we grow in Christ. How have you seen evidence of this new creation in your life? Are there areas where you're still clinging to old patterns or identities? Ask God to help you fully embrace your identity as a new creation in Christ, living as an ambassador of His reconciling love to the world around you.