



Study Guide: “SEXUAL IMMORALITY” (Part 9) | “The Lie Exposed”

Key Takeaways:

- Sexual immorality is about falling short of God's holy standard, not about condemning specific behaviors.
- Our identity in Christ is not defined by our past behaviors or current struggles.
- Once we are washed, sanctified, and justified in Christ, we are called to live according to our new identity.

Reflection Questions:

1. Pastor Ricks emphasizes that this series is about upholding God's righteous standard, not condemning specific groups. How does this perspective change the way we approach discussions about morality and sin?
2. Reflect on Romans 1:21-27. How does Paul describe the "exchange" that leads to various forms of sin? How might this apply to areas in our own lives where we've substituted our desires for God's will?
3. The sermon mentions that "every time we put feelings or culture above scripture, we make the same exchange." Can you think of examples where this happens in modern society or in your own life?
4. Consider the concept of "phantom sensation" as it relates to our spiritual lives. How might this idea help us understand persistent temptations or habits?
5. How does understanding our new identity in Christ (as described in 1 Corinthians 6:11) change the way we view ourselves and our struggles with sin?

Practical Applications:

- **Identity Affirmation:** Each day this week, speak aloud your identity in Christ (e.g., "I am a son/daughter of God, washed, sanctified, and justified").
 - **Scripture Memorization:** Commit to memorizing 1 Corinthians 6:11 as a reminder of your new identity in Christ.
 - **Standard Check:** Identify one area in your life where you might be prioritizing cultural norms or personal desires over God's standard. Pray and seek ways to realign with God's will in this area.
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5-Day Bible Reading Plan & Devotional Guide “SEXUAL IMMORALITY” (Part 9) | “The Lie Exposed”

Day 1 | “Embracing God's Standard of Holiness”

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

Devotional: God calls us to a higher standard - one of holiness. Just as He is holy, we are called to be holy in all our conduct. This isn't about perfection, but about aligning our hearts and actions with God's character. Reflect on areas of your life where you may have compromised God's standards. How can you take steps today to pursue holiness? Remember, this pursuit isn't about earning God's love, but responding to it. Pray for God's strength to walk in holiness.

Day 2 | “The Power of Identity in Christ”

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NKJV)

Devotional: In Christ, we are new creations. Our past no longer defines us - our identity is now rooted in Christ's righteousness. Meditate on what it means to be "the righteousness of God" in Christ. How does this truth change how you view yourself and your struggles? When temptation comes, remind yourself: "I am not who I once was. I am a new creation in Christ." Let this truth empower you to live out your new identity today.

Day 3 | “Overcoming Temptation Through God's Grace”

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (NKJV)

Devotional: Temptation is a universal human experience, but God promises a way of escape. His grace is sufficient to overcome any temptation we face. Reflect on areas where you feel particularly vulnerable. How can you prepare yourself to recognize and take God's "way of escape" when temptation comes? Remember, God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. Pray for discernment and strength to stand firm in moments of temptation.

Day 4 | “The Transforming Power of God's Word”

Bible Reading: Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

Devotional: True transformation comes through the renewing of our minds by God's Word. As we meditate on Scripture, our thinking aligns more closely with God's truth, empowering us to discern and follow His will. Consider how you can intentionally expose yourself to more of God's Word today. Maybe it's memorizing a verse, listening to Scripture during your commute, or spending extra time in Bible study. Ask God to use His Word to transform your mind and heart.

Day 5 | “Walking in Freedom and Victory”

Bible Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-16

Devotional: Christ has set us free - not to indulge our sinful nature, but to walk in the Spirit. This freedom is both a gift and a responsibility. How can you use your freedom today to serve others in love? Reflect on what it means to "walk by the Spirit." Ask God to fill you afresh with His Spirit, enabling you to overcome fleshly desires and bear spiritual fruit. Celebrate the victory that is already yours in Christ!