

...the main points again

Mistaking sex for love

The way of love for Christians:

*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, **just as Christ loved us** and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

- Ephesians 5.1 (TNIV)

Confronting a fertility goddess in Ephesus

Confronting a consumer sexuality

If we worship differently, we should live differently

Dirty minds lead to dirty talk

Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, those who follow Jesus have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect.

Confronting sex as a god- warning against idolatry

The reason Christians should dislike and avoid vulgarity is not because we have a warped view of sex, and we are either ashamed or afraid of it, but because we have a high and holy view of it as being in its right place God's good gift, which we do not want to see cheapened

- John Stott

Talking rightly about sex- this does not mean 'not talking' about sex
Lessons from a different context

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or magician with the same delight.

- C.S. Lewis

Enlightenment does not necessarily mean throwing off restraint

Lightening up the world



Filling a petrol car with diesel

The dangers of driving under the influence

Continually be filled with the Spirit...HOW?

The context for a filling station

Worship...

Sing to each other about God

Sing to God about God

Sing with thanksgiving

Learning a different love song- that does not mistake sex for love

*Observe **how Christ loved us**. His love was not cautious but extravagant.*

He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

- Ephesians 5.1, *The Message*

...so what...

What do you think our society associates with the word 'love'?
What does the Bible teach us about love?
Read Ephesians 5.1 in different translations- see TNIV and *The Message* overleaf. What does this teach us about love?

Ephesus was a society that had made a goddess for sex.
Do you feel our society has made a sex god, or sex a god?
How? What consequences does this have?

Read Ephesians 5.3-4
What do you think Paul has in mind when he speaks about immorality, impurity and greed?
Paul suggests that dirty talk is a sign of a dirty mind or that dirty talk will make minds dirty.
How important is it for us to be self controlled in our speech. Why?

What should a Christian attitude to sex be?
Read the John Stott quotation overleaf. Do you agree?
Do we as Christians come over ashamed or afraid of sex?

Read Ephesians 5.13
What do you think Paul means in this verse?
Are we to be light for God? To expose the misdeeds of the world?
Or to offer light to others?
What does he mean by '...everything that is illuminated becomes a light'?

Read verses 18-20
Does Paul say that Christians should not drink?
Does he say that Christians should not get drunk? If so, why not?
Paul suggests that we should not be under the influence of alcohol but of the Holy Spirit?
What do we do to be filled continually with the Holy Spirit?
What role does worship (by which Paul would have meant proclaiming the truths of our faith to God and to one another) have?

Sunday November 23rd

Living the



Ephesians

Way...

Under the influence

Ephesians 5.1-20