

Getting A Handle On Immorality

Intro: God has given us bodies and hearts (the inner self) that can be used as we want. We are not to deny these desires, but disciples of Jesus Christ are to use them in a way that shows respect to God's intention for their use. A way to God's intention, the "moral", is to grasp "immorality".

1. Definition

- A. In most translations, immorality is not used on its own.
- B. In Ephesians 5 "porneia" is translated fornication or sexual immorality in more modern translations.
- C. In Eph. 5:3, it is grouped with "impurity" and "covetousness".
- D. "Immorality" has come to many to mean more than sexual deviancy. It has come to fit a wider range of subjects: Whatever some think to be wrong (Immoral law; war; etc.)

2. A View of Immorality In A Context - Ephesians 5

- A. The proper pattern of living (what is moral or "unselfish love")
 - 1. Loving like Christ loved - Unselfish & Forgiving
 - 2. Walking in Light (5:8)
 - 3. Showing light's "fruit" (5:9)
 - 4. Discerning what is pleasing to God (5:10)
 - 5. Giving Thanks (5:4)
- B. The perverted pattern of living (what is immoral)
 - 1. Can't get "wanting" out of your mind (5:3)
 - 2. "Reality avoiding talk" that denigrates (5:4)
 - 3. Living as an idolater (5:5)
- C. Eph. 5:6 - Some will try to deceive us about point B. Why?
- D. Eph. 5:5 - No place in God's kingdom those in point B.
- E. In 1Thess. 4:3, Paul says sexual immorality is not God's will.

Conclusion: In Ephesians 2:2, living how we could call "immoral", is identified as the "course of the world". Among other thoughts, let's consider an article, "How Spiritual Are We?", from Parade Magazine to better the direction or "course of this world".