

THE NEW HUMANITY OF JESUS THE CHRIST:  
MEDITATIONS IN THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN FAITHFUL

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**CHRISTIANS AGAINST *PORNEIA***  
(EPHESIANS 5:3-6)

**I. Sex and the City of God**

- A. Two wrong attitudes toward sex:
  1. The conservative-prudish error: "Don't ask, don't tell, don't talk."
  2. The liberal-progressive error: "Sex is everything."
- B. God's opinion?
  1. Since God made sex, sex is good and can be properly discussed.
  2. Since God made sex, sex is not God and cannot be worshiped.
- C. But the predominant attitude today is the liberal-progressive view.
  1. We live in a "hyper-sexed" culture today.
  2. The evidences are as follows:
    - a. News media's capitalizing on sexual deviance
    - b. Widespread immodesty of dress
    - c. Films and music with sexual content
    - d. Advertisements with appeals to sexual desires

**II. Imitating God and Christ in the Area of Sexuality (Eph 5:3-6)**

- A. There must be no sexual deviance amongst God's holy ones (5:3)
  1. "But" (*de*) signifies a contrast to 5:1-2.
  2. In contrast to imitating God and walking in love, Christians must no longer practice the following things:
    - a. Sexual immorality (*porneia*)
    - b. Impurity (*akarthasia*)
    - c. Covetousness (*pleonexia*)
  3. Why should those sins not be named among God's people?
 

—Because they are "saints" (*hagiois*) or "holy ones."
- B. There must be no filthy talk amongst God's holy ones (5:4).
  1. Christians must not use "filthiness" or obscene talk.

2. Christians must not use "foolish talk," speech that celebrates sin and leads others into it.
3. Christians must not use "crude joking."

- C. The sexually impure will not have a share in the kingdom of Christ and God (5:5).
- D. God's holy ones must not be deceived into thinking that sexual sin is okay (5:6)
 

—*Why?* Because the wrath of God comes upon the practitioners of sexual deviance.

**III. Saints against *Porneia***

*As part of our growth toward God-likeness, God requires his holy and beloved children to renounce sexual immorality in all its forms. In addition to taking practical steps to limit our contact with impure material, God wants us to obediently (1) accept our God-given holiness, (2) remind ourselves of what he will do to the sexually immoral, and (3) embrace Jesus Christ as our glorious All.*

- A. To renounce sexual sin, we must limit our contact with impure material.
  1. In our hyper-sexed age, it is impossible not to see things that are impure.
  2. But we can control how much we take in by...
    - a. Disciplining our internet usage
    - b. Not browsing too long at the magazine section in a bookstore
    - c. Regulating our TV consumption
    - d. Quickly looking away when an impure image becomes visible.
  3. Note: The sin is not in the *seeing*, the sin is in the *lingering*.
- B. To renounce sexual sin, we obediently accept our God-given holiness (5:3).
 

—We must value the special status that God has given to us and not give it up for anything!
- C. To renounce sexual sin, we obediently remind ourselves of the fate of the sexually immoral (5:5, 6).
- D. To renounce sexual sin, we obediently embrace Christ Jesus as our glorious All (5:4; cf. Eph 1:5).