

SESSION 4

Sexual Stewardship & Singles



FOUR BIG IDEAS FOR STEWARDING YOUR SEXUALITY

1. You must _____, not _____ sexual temptation.

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.

— 1 Corinthians 6:18

Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded. But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God." She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work. She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

— Genesis 39:6-12

2. You must learn to _____ your eyes.

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

— 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

3. You must _____ AND _____.

People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

— Proverbs 28:13

PROVERBS 7 (THE MESSAGE)

Dear friend, do what I tell you;

treasure my careful instructions.

Do what I say and you'll live well.

My teaching is as precious as your eyesight —guard it!

Write it out on the back of your hands;

etch it on the chambers of your heart.

Talk to Wisdom as to a sister.

Treat Insight as your companion.

They'll be with you to fend off the Temptress—

that smooth-talking, honey-tongued Seductress.

As I stood at the window of my house

looking out through the shutters,

Watching the mindless crowd stroll by,

I spotted a young man without any sense

Arriving at the corner of the street where she lived,

then turning up the path to her house.

It was dusk, the evening coming on,

the darkness thickening into night.

Just then, a woman met him—

she'd been lying in wait for him, dressed to seduce him.

Brazen and brash she was,

restless and roaming, never at home,

Walking the streets, loitering in the mall,

hanging out at every corner in town.

She threw her arms around him and kissed him,

boldly took his arm and said,

"I've got all the makings for a feast—

today I made my offerings, my vows are all paid,

So now I've come to find you,

hoping to catch sight of your face

—and here you are!

I've spread fresh, clean sheets on my bed,

colorful imported linens.

My bed is aromatic with spices

and exotic fragrances.

Come, let's make love all night,

spend the night in ecstatic lovemaking!

My husband's not home; he's away on business,

and he won't be back for a month."

Soon she has him eating out of her hand,

bewitched by her honeyed speech.

Before you know it, he's trotting behind her,

like a calf led to the butcher shop,

Like a stag lured into ambush

and then shot with an arrow,

Like a bird flying into a net

not knowing that its flying life is over.

So, friends, listen to me,

take these words of mine most seriously.

Don't fool around with a woman like that;

don't even stroll through her neighborhood.

Countless victims come under her spell;

she's the death of many a poor man.

She runs a halfway house to hell,

fits you out with a shroud and a coffin.

4. You must _____ your _____ in godly ways.

God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor ... Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others.

— 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 11-12

Discussion Questions

1. If you are single, do you want to get married? Why or why not? What are some benefits of “dating in community?” If married, discuss how marriage does not remove sexual temptation.
2. What is one way you have failed to “flee” from sexual temptation? Share with your group one behavioral change you are going to make so that you can begin to “lead your heart.”
3. In what ways have you been misdirecting your pursuing energy? What are some practical ways you can begin to use your pursuing energy to improve the world around you? What is broken around you that you can help fix?
4. Read Galatians 6:7-8 aloud. As you think about how you are stewarding your sexuality, what can you expect to “harvest” based on what you are currently “planting?”
5. Spend a few minutes confessing with your group. What is one thing you have been hiding that you need to confess? What is thing you would like someone in your group to pray for?