

Free Love (Ephesians 5:2-7)

I. Introduction

- A. Illustration – the American sexual revolution of the 1960s
- B. Review of the context – *be imitators of God as dear children*
- C. Take home message: *How to walk in love without being conformed to the world's understanding of what love is*
- D. Reading the text and outline of the sermon

II. Walk in Love (Eph 5:2)

- A. The Gospel provides the basis for the command
- B. The Gospel defines love
 1. The world says, “*It can't be wrong when it feels so right*”
- C. The Gospel is the framework for the subsequent list of vices
 1. sexuality is about more than merely a standard of right and wrong

III. The list of vices to be avoided (Eph 5:3-4)

- A. Satan and the world have counterfeited and redefined love
- B. *fornication, uncleanness, covetousness*
 1. *fornication (porneia)* lack of sexual self-control (pornography)
 2. *uncleanness (akatharsia)* vile, rotten thoughts, ideas and acts
 3. *covetousness (pleonexia)* insatiable greed, getting what you want by fraud and deception
- C. *let it not even be named among you*
 1. Col 3:5, 1 Thess 4:3-6, 1 Cor 6:18
- D. *filthiness, foolish talking, coarse jesting*
 1. *filthiness (airschrotos)* disgraceful talk
 2. *foolish talking (morologia)* moronic stupid talk – low obscenity
 3. *coarse jesting (eutrapoleia)* high obscenity – innuendoes
- E. *rather giving of thanks* - the antidote to sexual sin

IV. The reasons for avoiding these vices (Eph 5:5-8)

- A. Non-biblical reasons to avoid sexual sin
 1. temporal consequences – pregnancy, STDs
 2. reputation (Matt Chandler's illustration: a broken deflowered rose)
 3. why such reasons are not good enough
- B. *this you know* (v. 5) Their utter incongruity with Christian profession
- C. Be warned: *for these things the wrath of God comes* (v. 6)
- D. *You were once in darkness but are now you are light* (v.8)
- E. Other Biblical reasons to flee sexual sin
 1. I Cor 6:15-20, Gal 5:19-25, 1 Thess 4:3-8, Heb 13:4-6

V. How to deal with sexual sin in yourself and others

- A. Matt Chandler's illustration concluded: *Jesus wants the rose*
- B. Deal with patience considering the magnitude of this temptation
- C. Stop doing it
- D. How did Jesus deal with it? John 8:11 The woman caught in adultery