

THE CHRISTIAN'S
SEXUAL ETHIC
Genesis 19:26-38

INTRODUCTION

Abraham had asked God to spare the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah if there were ten righteous found there. There weren't. In Genesis 19, Sodom and Gomorrah was given over to sexual immorality and going after strange flesh (homosexuality), and was destroyed. But God still answered the *heart* of Abraham's prayer by bringing Lot and his family out of Sodom, even if it is practically against Lot's will. Declared righteous by the Lord, Lot was delivered from the day of judgement (2 Peter 2:6-9). But Scripture also records Lot's tragic character for our example, "to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted,... and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. **Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**"

DIGGING DEEPER

I. Lot's life of compromise and ineffectiveness holds lessons for us all. With Genesis 19:26-38 as a backdrop, we will carefully consider how the Lord protects and guides our lives in the matter of sexual morality. *Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.*

Genesis 19:26-38. Read this text several times to get the sense of pathos in Lot's tragic family. Rescued from fire and brimstone rained on Sodom & Gomorrah, Lot and his family serve as examples recorded for our warning. Consider..:

- **Lot's wife looked back!** Her heart was still in Sodom as her home, a heart that loves the world. Beloved, our Lord has rescued you from the wickedness and judgement to come – look forward to your deliverance, don't look back. *Luke 17:31-33*
- **Lot ended up in a wilderness cave!** Fearful and doubting God's protection, Lot stopped far short of the escape intended for him. Beloved, God has provided a safe refuge for you – come to the Mount of the Lord. *Psalms 46:1-3*
- **Lot's daughters commit incest!** Having a skewed view of reality, Lot's daughters choose to preserve the line of their father by sleeping with him! No matter what pressure they felt, this repugnant sin should never have happened. But lines have been blurred, and their mindset is filled with corruption. The consequences of their sins are far reaching, as the Moabites and Ammonites that come from this incest will be cruel and hostile towards Israel for centuries.

II. Most Christians would agree that the sexual behavior seen in Genesis 19 is just plain wrong. But the world disagrees. Our culture is obsessed with permissive and hedonistic sexual practices, and pressure to be sexually active is enormous. But the world does not get the last word on sexuality. As Christians, we must have a response to the world's ways – a right response. Let's see what the Bible says about sexual immorality, and how we are to conduct ourselves.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20. Read these verses several times, and Consider...

- **Flee sexual immorality.** The world disagrees. Are you ok with God disagreeing with the world? God defines proper sexual activity clearly – for one man and one woman in in a monogamous heterosexual marriage. *1 Corinthians 7:1-3, Hebrews 13:4* Anything else is immorality, uncleanness, sin. As Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife, run away at all costs.
- **Sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.** It leaves scars. Consequences of sexual immorality are far reaching – abuse, promiscuity, broken trust, pregnancy, psychological scars, STD's. Society's solution? Secular council, divorce, abortion, condoms.
- **Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.** So don't go into unholy territory. *Colossians 3:5*
- **Your body is now owned by the Lord.** Therefore, glorify Him. *Romans 12:1*

III. Many are condemned for decisions they have made and acts they have committed. Good news – There is grace!

1 Corinthians 6:11. Read verses 9-11 to establish context. Forgiveness and healing are available for any who acknowledge their sin and come to Jesus. He does not condemn. Like the woman caught in adultery, He offers forgiveness and power to sin no more! **You are washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**

CONSIDER Some Christians are uncomfortable about addressing the subject of sexual ethics. But not God....

- The Bible has much to say about sexual ethics, providing many examples to learn from.
- Clear teaching on sexual immorality challenges us to assess our choices and actions.
- Praise the Lord for His grace and forgiveness, experiencing a life free of condemnation!

PRAY

- Night of Praise and Thanksgiving Wednesday, 11/23. Celebrate the multitude blessings of our great God.
- Church fast 11/28-12/2. May the Holy Spirit move upon all our hearts to desire personal holiness.
- Teens and youth, Pastor Steve. Pray for our youth, that they may follow Jesus with all their heart.
- Prayer ministry – Pray that folks will be moved to join in the various prayer meetings that gather throughout the week.
- Local & regional outreaches – St. John in Exile presentations; WZXV in Palmyra; Pastor Jeff Gallatin. • International missions (info in foyer) – China missions; Pastor Ted's mission trip in China 11/22-12/8.