

## **Ephesians 5:15-6:3**

*Ray Stedman*

I. Introduction. Text: Ephesians 5:15-6:3.

II. Practical methods of application.

A. Put on the old self and put on the new self.

1. You can give up lying.
2. Be angry but do not sin.
3. Steal no longer but labor with your hands.
4. Keep clean speech.
5. Do not grieve the Spirit with bitterness, wrath, clamor, slander and malice.

B. Life starts to happen when the church begins to walk in the Spirit.

III. The walk of faith through a sex-mad world.

A. No matter how bad it is today, sexual misuse was not as bad as it was in Corinth and Rome.

B. Five great suggestions on how to handle oneself in a sex-mad world.

1. Distinguish carefully between lust and love.
  - a. Love does not make sexual intercourse okay.
  - b. You cannot mix love and sexual immorality.
  - c. Love is a desire for another person which is fully under one's control (you can use it to advance the person), but lust is a desire for another person that controls you and is destructive.
  - d. We are to treat women like sisters.
2. Let there be thanksgiving—handle sex drives responsibly.
  - a. Our sexual drives must be handled responsibly.
  - b. Avoid literature that inflames.
  - c. Sexual transgression is an improper expression of the urge to merge.
  - d. Thanking God for the gift of sex helps to curb evil desires.

3. Recognize that a true Christian profession and a lifestyle of immorality cannot co-exist.
  - a. Be alert for smooth and plausible sounding arguments.
  - b. Sex like other bodily functions must be regulated, but unlike other functions, it is not necessary for survival.
  - c. Sex is healthy in marriage but it is not healthy as a distorted appetite.
4. Learn about sex from God.
  - a. Do not associate with these practices.
  - b. Husbands ought to treat their wives psychologically as they do physically.
5. Learn to teach the truth of sex instead of blinding your minds.

C. Four basic facts about sex revealed in the Scriptures.

1. God likes sex.
2. Sex in mankind is different from the animals.
3. Sex is a spiritual, psychological and physical hold.
4. The only proper expression of sex is in marriage.

**Application questions:**

1. Why might the four basic facts about sex be contrary to the world? How might it be contrary to what many Christians teach today?

---

---

2. What are the principles that help the believer in a sex-mad world? Which do you find the most important?

---

---

3. What did you learn from the message that is different from what you have been taught? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

---

---