

## Holding to God's Standard of Morality

### Selected Scriptures

#### 1. The Call of Speaking Clearly

God has given us His Word, and where it is clear we must be clear. God has given us the standard for sanctified sexual morality in His Word (Gen. 2:20-25). One of the ten commandments is a simple statement not to commit adultery (Ex. 20:14), a sin which is elsewhere described in more detail (cf. Lev. 20:10). Even though men will continually ask for newer or more specific information from God, He has spoken to us clearly and we are responsible to believe and obey (cf. Luke 15:29-31). The language and definitions of sin which are used by the Lord Jesus Christ, His apostles, and the New Testament writers is formed out of the Old Testament Scriptures (cf. Lev. 18:22; 1 Cor. 6:9).

#### 2. The Conflict and Cost of Speaking Clearly

Those who are faithful to speak and to live according to God's Word in the area of sexual morality have always found conflict with the culture around them. Lot had to have made many compromises in order to live in Sodom, but he was distressed by the wickedness around him (2 Pet. 2:6-8). The members of the early church were no stranger to sexual sin within the congregation, but it was not always handled as it ought to have been (1 Cor. 5:1ff). John the Baptist spoke out about the sexual immorality of the reigning king of Israel and it cost him his life (Matt 14:1-12).

#### 3. The Compassion of Speaking Clearly

A Christian cannot compromise in articulating the distinction between sanctified sexual activity and sinful sexual activity without compromising the gospel itself. The Bible is clear that all men stand condemned by God and because of the sin which we commit (Rom. 6:23). The Bible is also clear about the general categorization of sin (1 John 3:4) as well as explicitly listing several specific manifestations of sin (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21; Eph 5:5; Rev. 22:15). We must speak the way that God has spoken about sin so that we can speak in the way that God has spoken about salvation (1 Cor. 6:11; 1 Tim. 1:15). We must use God's Word to show men their desperate need for Christ so that they can find Him and be saved (Luke 5:31-32; cf. Luke 18:9).