

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

In Honor Among All — Hebrews 13:4
November 4, 2018

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. —**Hebrews 13:4**

I. MARRIAGE IS PRECIOUS

- Marriage is God's ideal for the majority of people. It is to be honored by married and unmarried people alike (Gen. 2:24; 1 Cor. 7:1-2; 7:36; Eph. 5:22-33).
- Out of "brotherly" love, a true believer would never break up a marriage by means of sexual immorality (Heb. 13:1).

II. THE MARRIAGE "BED" IS DEFILED BY...

- Fornication [pre-marital] (Acts 15:20; 1 Cor. 7:2; Gal. 5:19; 1 Thess. 4:1-8).
- Adultery [within marriage] (Ex. 20:14; Lev. 20:10; Prov. 6:32; Matt. 5:28; Rom. 2:22).
- Immorality (Rom. 13:13-14; 1 Cor. 5:1-12; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5).

III. THE RESULTS OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY ARE...

- Not pleasant to think about, nor politically correct (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 5:5-6; 1 Thess. 4:3-7; Jude 1:4-7; 2 Peter 2:1-22; Rev. 21:8; 22:15).
- Our immorality is not irreversible. No one is beyond God's reach (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

IV. HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?

- We should establish boundaries, fight fire with fire, and go to God's word (1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 8:6; James 4:7; 1 John 4:4).
- We should seek to live as God calls us to live (1 Thess. 4:1-8).
- We should live with hope (Rom. 6:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

KNOW: We are called to holiness and purity, both before and after marriage. We honor our spouse, current and future, by living lives of sexual purity. We honor God by living pure lives, whether or not we ever get married.

DO: Live distinctly by living holy lives.

Suggested Reading:

Passion & Purity by Elisabeth Elliot (LifePoint Library #646 ELL)

Finally Free: Fighting for Purity with the Power of Grace by Heath Lambert (LifePoint Library #646 LAM)

Eros Defiled by John White (LifePoint Library #261 WHI)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. Here's a tricky one, but can you (tastefully) share where impurity has affected you in your own life (either another's impurity or your own)?
2. Why do you think our world is so crazy about sex?
3. If it is true that we are sexual beings, created male and female, why does God put parameters around sexual activity?
4. Why is adultery so damaging to marriage? Why does it seem to affect marriages more than greed, impatience, etc.?
5. What are some effective/practical ways to practice purity in our current culture?
6. How does what we watch (T.V., movies, etc.) affect our purity/holiness? Where do we draw the line? (Note: answers will vary; allow for grace to rule the discussion.)
7. Is this message even practical? Is it possible to remain pure in our current culture?