

- **Keep Loving; Be Ready For Jesus (Part 6)**  
**Pastor Rocklyn Clarke - Sunday April 29, 2012**  
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- **New Material**
  - **Preparation**
  - **Keep Loving; Be Ready For Jesus (Part 6)**
    - **Preparation - Romans 13:8-14**
    - **Standing Issues**
      - From a word Bishop gave me:
        - Make sure people do something with God's message.
        - Make it plain:
          - Use accessible language.
          - Use modern day parables based on every day occurrences:
            - Sitting at a stop light
            - Driving through a green light
            - Approaching a yellow light
            - Being cut off in traffic
            - Going shopping
            - Going to a mall
            - Going to school; sitting in class
            - Going to work; sitting in your office;
        - Keep it simple.
        - Use illustrations of truth out of my own experience.
      - Impart faith to obey the Word and receive God's promises.
- **Introduction**
  - Welcome to another service at the Hampton Inn & Suites.
  - Welcome Cards -
    - “I want to call your attention to the Welcome Card that you were given on your way into the auditorium”
    - These cards do two things for us:
      - They help us get to know our new visitors better.
      - They also give anyone (visitors or members) a chance to express a need or to give us feedback.
      - By filling it out you will help us to better serve you.
    - We're going to provide time for you to complete the cards at the end of our service, but we encourage you to start filling them out now.
      - **Please use this card:**
        - if you're a **first time visitor** or if you've **never** filled one out

before,

- to tell us about a **decision you made** today,
- to ask us for more information, or to give us **feedback**.

**Please include your contact information** unless we already have it. At the **end of service** we'll ask you to complete the card and then place it in the designated box or give it to someone from our staff on your way out.

- Transition
  - We're following up on our discussion of Romans 12:1-3.
  - Confession - my difficult relationship.
  - My experience at Tyrone Cushman's consecration as bishop.
  - God wants us to take our relationship with him seriously.
  - God wants us to take ourselves seriously enough to:
    - Consider what we do and take responsibility for it.
    - Consider why we do it.
    - Be honest about our motivations.
  - This has implications for our sexuality.

- **Introductory Passage - Romans 12:1-3**

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

- **Introductory Passage - Romans 13:8-10**

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

- **Read the Passage - Romans 13:11-14**

And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. **Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.** Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

- **Exegetical Idea (Romans 13:11-14)**
  - Avoid deeds of darkness like sexual immorality and debauchery.
- **What does this mean?**
  - Words
    - Sexual Immorality (κοίτη - Gk)
 

6.108 **κοίτη**, ης f: a piece of furniture used for sleeping — ‘bed.’ τὰ παῖδιά μου μετ’ ἐμοῦ εἰς τὴν κοίτην εἰσὶν ‘my children are in bed with me’ Lk 11:7. It is not necessary to understand Lk 11:7 to mean that the children were in the same bed with the man, but it is, of course, possible that the reference here is to a relatively humble house in which all the members of the family would sleep on a single raised platform. See also 10.37.
    - Debauchery (ἀσέλγεια - Gk)
 

“License,” mostly physical, figuratively spiritual. “Debauchery” or “licentiousness” is the sense in 2 Pet. 2:7 (Sodom and Gomorrah) and Eph. 4:19 (the pagan world). Sexual excess is probably meant in Gal. 5:19 and certainly so in Rom. 13:13; 2 Cor. 12:21; 2 Pet. 2:2, 18. [O. BAUERNFEIND, I, 490]
    - Sexual Immorality (πορνεία - Gk)
 

Prostitution; fornication
  - Roman culture:
    - dinners
    - drinking
    - hetairai
 

These were highly educated, sophisticated companions - similar to call girls or escorts.
    - sex parties
  - Wake up and clothe yourselves with Jesus.
- **Is it True? Do I believe it?**
  - Yes: **Matthew 7:12** - . . . do to others . . .
  - Yes: **Matthew 15:1-20**
  - Yes: **1 Corinthians 6:9-20**
- **What difference does it make? So What?**
  - Sex outside of marriage is wrong.
  - Sex within marriage is appropriate, commanded (**1 Corinthians 7:1-9**)
  - Sexual immorality violates the symbolism of marriage - Eph 5:15-33

- **Homiletical Idea:**  
Avoid deeds of darkness like sexual immorality and debauchery.
- **Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**
  - Understand God's view of sexual immorality.
  - Walk in sexual purity.
- **Understand God's view of sexual immorality.**
  - Popular Culture
    - Reasons by EWF
    - Love To Love You Baby by Donna Summer
    - Naughty Girl by Beyonce
    - Lose My Breath by Destiny's Child
    - Will You Love Me Tomorrow by Carole King
    - Not Just Tomorrow, But Always by Tony Orlando
    - Give Me Everything by Ne-Yo featuring Pit Bull
  - What is God's alternative to sexual immorality?
    - Marriage - **1Corinthians 7:1-9**
- **Walk in sexual purity.**
  - Setting the stage:
    - Have you ever done something you knew was wrong and been afraid that you were going to be caught? Did this ever happen to you before you were saved? Did this ever happen to you after you were saved?
    - Of all the people who could possibly "catch you" who would be your top choice?
    - Of all the people in the world Jesus is the best one to have "catch you". - **John 8:1-11**
  - Victory in this area comes by staying in God's presence rather than by trying to follow rules. God wants to transform us by captivating our hearts:
    - A man captivated by his future wife.
    - A woman captivated by her future husband.
    - A child captivated by spending time with Daddy.
  - Strategies For Success
    - Get in God's presence.
    - Share your struggles with him.
    - Adopt the strategies he reveals to you.
    - Share your struggles with other brothers and sisters that you trust.

- Be open to the strategies they suggest to you.
- **Small Group Discussion**
  - **Romans 13:11-14**
    - What do you consider to be sexual immorality? Do your views about this agree with the Bible? Discuss.
    - How has the Bible influenced your attitude about sexual immorality? What passages, if any, do you find particularly meaningful to you in this area?
    - When you need to discuss a sexual issue are there people in your life you feel comfortable turning to? Are any of them followers of Jesus?
    - Are there people who turn to you when they want to discuss sexual issues? How do you feel about this? Are any of them followers of Jesus?
  - **John 8:1-11**
    - Was Jesus someone to whom people could safely reveal their failures? Discuss.
    - Is Jesus someone to whom you can safely reveal your failures? How does this passage affect your answer?
    - How often do you reveal your failures to Jesus?
- **Conclusion**
  - Keep the conversation going.
  - Wake up and stay awake!
  - Drop the deeds of darkness!
  - Keep clothing yourselves with Jesus Christ.
  - 
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- **Altar Call / Welcome Cards / Communion ?**
  - Welcome Cards - refer to script
  - We're almost ready to close this portion of our service, but first we want to give you a chance to respond to what you've heard.

- Earlier in the service we mentioned the welcome cards and we encouraged you to begin filling them out.
- Right now we want you to complete your welcome card. We especially want you to use this card if:
  - if you're a first time visitor
  - if you've never filled one out before,
  - if you want to tell us about a decision you made today,
  - if you want to ask us for more information, or to give us feedback.
- Please be sure to include your up to date contact information unless we already have it.
  
- **MC & Worship Team continue with tithes, offerings, and worship**
  
- **Benediction - Numbers 6:24-26**

““The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.””
  
- **Men's Prayer**
  
- **Life Group Material**
  - **Life Group Word Material**

These are sample discussion questions / topics. Your life group leaders may choose to adjust these questions, substitute new ones, or spend the Word section of the meeting in a different way altogether.

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  - **Romans 12:1-3**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.
  
  - **Discussion Questions / Topics:**
    - Are you offering your body as a living sacrifice to the living God? Do you talk to him about what you're offering him? Discuss.

- **Romans 13:11-14**

And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, **not in sexual immorality and debauchery**, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- What do you consider to be sexual immorality? Do your views about this agree with the Bible? Discuss.
- How has the Bible influenced your attitude about sexual immorality? What passages, if any, do you find particularly meaningful to you in this area?
- When you need to discuss a sexual issue are there people in your life you feel comfortable turning to? Are any of them followers of Jesus?
- Are there people who turn to you when they want to discuss sexual issues? How do you feel about this? Are any of them followers of Jesus?

- **John 8:1-11**

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- Was Jesus someone to whom people could safely reveal their failures? Discuss.

- Is Jesus someone to whom you can safely reveal your failures? How does this passage affect your answer?
- How often do you reveal your failures to Jesus?

- **Scriptures For 4/29/2012 Life Church Sermon**

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### **Matthew 15:15-20**

Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.”

“Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean.’ **For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.** These are what make a man ‘unclean’; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him ‘unclean.’”

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: **sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery**; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

### **1 Corinthians 6:9-20**

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: **Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor**

**homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.** And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

“Everything is permissible for me” — but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me” — but I will not be mastered by anything. “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food” — but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

### **1 Corinthians 7:1-9**

**Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.** The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

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**“No one, sir,” she said.**

**“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”**

## Life Church Mission Statement

- Our mission is to teach people:
  - to enjoy knowing Jesus without fear, inadequacy, guilt, or shame,
  - to follow him together as his family,
  - to function together as his body,
  - and to work together to expand his kingdom.

## Understanding The Bible

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Here, for your convenience, are the Bible passages for today's sermon at Life Church. We use mostly the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible so that you can read it in modern English. You may have been accustomed to reading or hearing the King James Version of the Bible, which uses older English (with words like "thee" , "thou", "thine", "believeth", etc.). Don't be alarmed - the passages are really from the Bible!

The Bible was originally written in three ancient languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. None of the people in the Bible, and none of the people who God used to write it spoke English. In fact, English did not even exist as a language when the Bible was written. The King James Version, first published in 1611, was a translation of the Bible from it's original languages into the every day English that people used back then - almost 400 years ago! They didn't just speak that way in church - they spoke that way with everyone. The King James Version was "modernized" in 1769, but, even so, English has certainly changed a lot since then! **We believe that if you're reading an English translation of the Bible it ought to be up to date - written in the English you speak every day. God wants you to understand his Word so that you can put it into practice!**

**Life Church Web Site: <http://www.lifechurchboston.org/>**