

- **Keep Loving; Be Ready For Jesus (Part 8)**  
**Pastor Rocklyn Clarke - Sunday May 20, 2012**  
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- **New Material**
  - **Preparation**
  - **Keep Loving; Be Ready For Jesus (Part 8)**
    - **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.
- 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)**
  - Express Jesus rather than your flesh.
- **What does this mean?**
  - Rom 12:2 - Be transformed by renewed thinking.
  - Don't - think about how to gratify your flesh.
  - Do - face the world in your "Jesus suit".
- **Is it True? Do I believe it?**
  - Yes - this "bookends" Rom 12:2 ("be transformed by the renewing of your mind").
  - Yes: **Matthew 15:1-20**
  - Yes: **1 Corinthians 6:9-20**
- **What difference does it make? So What?**
  - The strength to obey God in these areas comes from Jesus.
  - Clothing yourself is an intentional, thoughtful, and comprehensive activity.
  - Much of our fleshly activity is planned for.
- **Homiletical Idea:**  
Express Jesus rather than your flesh.
- **Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**
  - Take hold of Jesus' strength for living.
  - Stop planning to gratify the flesh.
- **Review 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**
  - What did Jesus have to say about this subject? Was he really speechless?

- Stephen Colbert: "Jesus was so enraged about this he was speechless."
- **Matthew 15:1-20**
- What does this passage teach us about our subject?
- **Matthew 15:1-20**
  - Who is speaking?
  - What is the subject under discussion?
  - What comes out of the heart?
  - Is this a list of good things, bad things, mixed things, or "none of the above"?
  - Does anything in this list relate to the subject of today's message? (You should be able to find two terms)
  - Are there any Bible passages that might help explain what Jesus' audience would have understood these terms to mean?
  - Was Jesus really "speechless" about this subject?
    - Jesus said nothing explicitly about drug addiction.
- **Some Context For Jesus' Remarks**
  - Culture
    - Agricultural societies sought the favor of the gods for abundant crops.
    - Sexual acts were seen as supportive of fertility.
    - God takes great pains to separate sexuality from worship.
  - Passages
    - Exodus 20:14  
"You shall not commit adultery."
    - Leviticus 18
    - Leviticus 20
    - Deuteronomy 9:1-6
    - Leviticus 18
    - Leviticus 20
    - Deuteronomy 9:1-6 (Not because of Israel's righteousness)  
Hear, O Israel. You are now about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities that have walls up to the sky. The people are strong and tall — Anakites! You know about them and have heard it said: "Who can stand up against the Anakites?" But be assured today that the LORD your God is the one who

goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire. He will destroy them; he will subdue them before you. And you will drive them out and annihilate them quickly, as the LORD has promised you.

After the LORD your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, "The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness." No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is going to drive them out before you. **It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.** Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.

- Deuteronomy 22:13-29

If a man takes a wife and, after lying with her, dislikes her and slanders her and gives her a bad name, saying, "I married this woman, but when I approached her, I did not find proof of her virginity," then the girl's father and mother shall bring proof that she was a virgin to the town elders at the gate. The girl's father will say to the elders, "I gave my daughter in marriage to this man, but he dislikes her. Now he has slandered her and said, 'I did not find your daughter to be a virgin.' But here is the proof of my daughter's virginity." Then her parents shall display the cloth before the elders of the town, and the elders shall take the man and punish him. They shall fine him a hundred shekels of silver and give them to the girl's father, because this man has given an Israelite virgin a bad name. She shall continue to be his wife; he must not divorce her as long as he lives.

If, however, the charge is true and no proof of the girl's virginity can be found, she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has done a disgraceful thing in Israel by being promiscuous while still in her father's house. You must purge the evil from among you.

If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.

If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death — the girl because she was in a town and did not scream for help, and the man because he violated another man's wife. You must purge the evil from among you.

But if out in the country a man happens to meet a girl pledged to be married and rapes her, only the man who has done this shall die. Do nothing to the girl; she has committed no sin deserving death. This case is like that of someone who attacks and murders his neighbor, for the man found the girl out in the country, and though the betrothed girl screamed, there was no one to rescue her.

If a man happens to meet a virgin who is not pledged to be married and rapes her and they are discovered, he shall pay the girl's father fifty shekels

of silver. He must marry the girl, for he has violated her. He can never divorce her as long as he lives.

- A word about homosexuality
  - 1 Corinthians 6:9-20
    - "male prostitutes" = (μαλακοσ - Gk) malakos (the passive partner)
    - "homosexual offenders" = (ἀρσενοκοῖται - Gk) arsenokoites (the aggressive partner)
    - Roman and Greek culture thought about same gender sexual activity differently from the way we do.
  - How do we deal with homosexuality and gay marriage?
    - We must treat people with love and respect.
    - Gay men need to be loved non-sexually by Christian men.
    - Gay women need to be loved non-sexually by Christian women.
    - There are many people for whom this lifestyle does not feel like "a choice". We need to treat them with compassion.
    - It will be difficult to influence anyone away from this lifestyle until we cultivate an atmosphere of transparency, vulnerability, and humble dependance on Jesus' power to save all of us.
  - Should we put people to death for sexual immorality?
    - **John 8:1-11**
    - Matthew 5 - 7 (Jesus fulfills the Law)
- **Leadership Team Sharing**
  - What has helped you to "clothe yourselves with Jesus Christ?"
  - How have you stopped thinking about how to gratify your flesh?
- **Small Group Sharing**
- **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.

Scripture taken from the [HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION \(NIV\)](#).

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### **Romans 13:11-14**

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- **Observation Questions:**
  - Who wrote this passage?
  - Who is the author's intended audience?
  - When was this written (bonus question)?
- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**
  - Did you clothe yourself with Jesus Christ this past week? Discuss.
  - Did you find yourself thinking about how to gratify the desires of your flesh (i.e. "sinful nature") this past week? If so, what strategies will you use to overcome this in the future?
  - How are you applying this passage to your life?

- **Scriptures For 5/20/2012 Life Church Sermon**

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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.

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### **Matthew 15:1-20**

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!”

Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,’ he is not to ‘honor his father’ with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: “‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’”

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean,’ but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean.’”

Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?”

He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

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.

### **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."**

## **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/>