

## “Returning to the Vomit”

Ephesians 5:1-6

C.I.T.—Imitating God does not leave room for sexual immorality.

C.I.S.—If we want to imitate God, we must flee sexual immorality.

Purpose—To show that sexual immorality is antithetical to the Christian life and that we must flee from all forms of it.

Introduction—Romantic perversion and its place in the Christian life

- List of Romantic perversions. Vs. 3-4
  - Immorality—porneia—any type of perversion romantically outside of marriage
  - Impurity—refers to rotting dead bodies, used in conjunction with romantic perversion rotting one’s body
  - Greed—word for covetousness—wanting something that you are not supposed to have or doesn’t belong to you
  - Obscenity—anything disgraceful, context of romantic
  - Foolish—moron+logos=low obscenity/gutter language
  - Crude joking—turning everything into perversion
  - These are perversions of genuine romantic love, within marriage.
- a. All of them are attempts to fulfill romantic desires in a way contrary to God’s way.
- I. ***Romantic Perversion Doesn’t Imitate Him.*** Vs. 1-2
  - a. Vs 1-2 shows the goal of the Christian: to imitate God.
    - i. This picture is of sacrificial, selfless love.
    - ii. Illustrated by Christ’s love on the cross.
  - b. Selfish love is loving something for what the object of that love can give me.—I love Blue Bell Ice Cream
  - c. Illus.—Wedding vows—for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do we part, not until your hair falls off of your head and onto your ears, nostrils, and back
  - d. Application
    - i. Romance is designed by God to be in the context of marriages which are founded on Christlike selfless love.
    - ii. Romantic Perversions are founded on selfish love—what can the other person provide for me, and when my expectations aren’t being met, then I no longer love them, because it is all about me.
    - iii. My marriage relationship is not predicated on what she can provide for me, but on my commitment to provide for her needs.
    - iv. Why so many divorces? Because people treat marriage the same way they do perversions. What can I get out of this?
    - v. Attempting to fulfill romantic desires without the selfless covenant of marriage reveals selfishness instead of a Christlike selflessness.
- II. ***Romantic Perversion Doesn’t Illustrate Holiness*** vs. 3-4
  - a. Romantic perversion has no place—not heard among you
  - b. Romantic perversion is not proper/suitable for saints
    - i. Saints are holy ones or set apart.
    - ii. When we come to Christ, we are set apart for His service and are made holy sins.
    - iii. We can’t get caught up in the mess of perversion.
  - c. Thanksgiving—grateful for what God has given, instead of seeking to get it our own perverted way
  - d. Illus.—Need a rag to work on a car—I can’t use the pretty towels, I have to use the ratty towels.
  - e. Application

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- i. You have been set apart to serve the Lord.
- ii. You have no business with romantic perversion.
- iii. 1 Corinthians 6—When we join in romantic perversion, we are bringing Jesus with us.
- iv. It is not compatible with our holiness.

### III. ***Romantic Perversion Doesn't Inherit Heaven*** vs. 5

- a. Every/all—an exceptions here?
- b. Immoral/impure/greedy
- c. Idolatry—person places the object of love above the Lord and prioritize it above Him
- d. Because it is more important, he is willing to pervert life to attain it.
- e. Someone's whose life is characterized by romantic perversion does not have an inheritance—they are not saved.
- f. They know the truth, but choose to reject that choice.
- g. Illus.—**2 Peter 2: 20-22**
- h. Application
  - i. If you life is characterized by romantic perversion, at worst you are lost and at best you are backslidden.
  - ii. Premarital, cohabiters, adulterers, and LGBTQ+ cannot be walking with God and are probably lost.
  - iii. 1 Cor 6 says to “Flee sexual immorality”

### Conclusion

- If you name Jesus, and are engaged in Romantic Perversion, you have returned to your vomit.
- You may have never left it to begin with.
- For those engaged, this is a call to repent of that sin.
- Failure to repent reveals that we are lost.
- When we repent, we find the grace and mercy of Jesus.

**2 Peter 2:20** For if, having escaped the world's impurity through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in these things and defeated, the last state is worse for them than the first. <sup>21</sup> For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy command delivered to them. <sup>22</sup> It has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to its own vomit, and, "a washed sow returns to wallowing in the mud." (2 Pet. 2:20 CSB17)