

## “Sexual Fluidity”



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Last Sunday, I preached on a juicy passage in 1 Corinthians 5. It is the kind of passage that makes us uncomfortable. In this passage, the Apostle Paul confronts the believers in Corinth for tolerating sexual behavior that deviates from God’s Word within their church. “Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.” (1 Cor. 5:2) It is clear that God expects his children to respond to sin with repentance, and not with arrogance or tolerance. This is true individually and it is true corporately.

According to Paul, sin must be addressed aggressively because sin is spiritual cancer. The disease spreads. “Do you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?” (vs. 6) It is for the health of the entire community, that this sin has to be addressed. At first glance this may sound unloving and judgmental to modern ears, but is it? Is it unloving for the surgeon to recommend immediate surgery to remove the malignant tumor?

In Corinth, it was tolerance of sexual sin that needed to be addressed. Ancient Corinth was a culture not unlike ours, with an extremely permissive attitude toward sexuality. In our own day, it seems this permissive attitude is reaching new levels.

According to a recent Gallup poll, LGBT identification is on the rise among Americans, most notably among Generation Z (those 18-23 in 2020). According to the poll, 1 in 6 in Generation Z identify as LGBT, but with 72% of these claiming they are bisexual.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.gallup.com/poll/329708/lgbt-identification-rises-latest-estimate.aspx>

The term that's been given to this is "sexual fluidity." In other words, younger generations don't want to be "confined" in any way when it comes to their sexuality. Kristen Stewart, a pop culture icon, perhaps summarized this the best when she said in a recent interview, *"I think in three or four years, there are going to be a whole lot more people who don't think it's necessary to figure out if you're gay or straight. It's like, just do your thing."*<sup>2</sup>

This statement is telling. It is not about sexuality. It is about complete moral autonomy. It is not sexual fluidity, but moral fluidity that now defines western culture. Complete independence from God and any moral authority is the goal. Sadly, we know where this leads not to greater freedom and happiness, but the opposite.

Paul claims that it is no business of his to judge those outside the church – that is God's job. The role of the Church is to live as a faithful presence in a morally fluid culture. We are to speak and live the truth that there is a God to whom we are accountable, and to preach the good news of repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ.

We are not to judge those outside the church, but we are to judge within the church. (Vs. 12) We are to live by the standard that God, not man, has set, and to hold each other accountable to pursue holiness. For this reason, would we not fall into the same mistake as Corinth, if we tolerated sexual fluidity in the church? Would we be welcoming the disease of sin into the body of Christ?

The pressure to embrace the new sexuality has been and will continue to be immense. To hold to biblical sexual morality will be costly. But it nowhere near the cost of accepting and embracing the spiritual cancer of sin. Sin, anything opposed to the will or word of God is spiritual cancer, a disease that apart from the grace of God leads to death.

The Church of Jesus Christ must hold the line. For with the spiritual devastation that will inevitably follow "sexual fluidity", where else will they go?

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/articles/BL-SEB-90473>

