



JESUS & SEX
WEEK OF MAR 2

 **READING ASSIGNMENT**

This week, we are reading pages 94-103 in Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. The PDF of this chapter is available on our website at rockypeak.org/disciple. If you prefer a hard copy, you can pick one up at Starting Point on the patio of the Worship Center during weekend services. You can also access the reading by scanning the QR code here



 **GETTING STARTED**

This weekend, we unpacked what it looks like to bring our sex lives under the leadership of King Jesus and experience a new level of righteousness and freedom in that area. If you are in a general or married Life Group, we recommend you split into smaller groups of men and women to discuss this study due to the sensitive nature of the topic. Before you start this study, take a deep breath, then read and reflect on the following passage:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

 **STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. The weekend message started by taking us back to Jesus' most famous teaching, the Sermon on the Mount. Read Matthew 5:20.
 - a. What do you think it means to be a *righteous* disciple of Jesus?
 - b. What does Jesus mean by saying our righteousness needs to *surpass* that of the religious leaders of His time?
2. Jesus calls His disciples into a way of life that is deeper, richer, and higher than anything else. To help us understand this, Jesus gives several examples of what life under His leadership looks like. Our focus in this study is the area of **sexual purity**.

- a. What were one or two insights or learnings that you gained from the weekend teaching?
 - b. What was one way in which the weekend message challenged you?
 - c. As you reflect on your life, who or what have been key influences that have formed your view or understanding of sex?
 - d. How have you experienced Jesus reforming the way you understand sex/sexuality?
3. Slowly reread **Matthew 5:27-30**. This is the passage Michael focused on this weekend.
- a. Jot down any specific words or phrases that jump out to you.
 - b. While this passage is specifically addressing lust/sexual sin, what would you say is the principle toward any sin in your life?
4. Jesus talked about the importance of sexual purity at other times as well. **Read Mark 7:20-23**.
- a. According to this passage, what “defiles” our lives?
 - b. Jesus lists 12 examples of what defiles us. List those that have to do with some form of sexual immorality.
5. Jesus uses strong language and imagery to communicate that a disciple is to do whatever it takes to rid themselves of sexual sin. We see this charge repeated throughout the New Testament. Read the following passages, first in the NIV translation, then in The Message translation, and write down any keywords or phrases the Spirit highlights for you.
- **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**
- a. Much like today, the early church was living in a “sex-saturated” world, and this call to purity was radical compared to their culture’s beliefs. Why do you think these instructions about sexual purity are so important for a disciple of Jesus?
 - b. These instructions apply to both single and married disciples. If you are single, how can you protect yourself from sexual sin? What about if you are married? How can you protect your marriage from sexual sin?
6. In this week’s reading assignment in *Mere Christianity*, on page 95, C.S. Lewis writes, “Chastity [sexual purity] is the most unpopular of the Christian virtues.”
- a. How do you feel about this quote? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
 - b. While it can be difficult, what are some of the benefits that come from living out Jesus’ call to purity?
 - c. When teaching on this topic, Christian apologist, Sean McDowell, often asks the question: “*Would the world be better, worse, or the same if everyone followed Jesus’ sexual ethic?*” What do you think? Explain.

7. In the message, Michael gave us three principles:

- *Sexual Purity ... Is A Non-Negotiable.*
- *Jesus ... Does Not Change.*
- *Sexual Purity ... Starts With The Heart.*

- a. Which of these three is having the biggest impact on you right now?
- b. Which of these three are you finding the most challenging? Why?

8. This weekend, Michael ended the message with two questions. The first was, *Have You Surrendered ... Your Sexuality?*

- a. How did you answer that question?
- b. Are there any specific struggles, hurts, habits, or challenges that are hindering you from surrendering this area of your life?
- c. How do you sense the Holy Spirit encouraging and empowering you toward surrender?
- d. Are there any specific “next steps” of obedience the Holy Spirit is calling you to take to pursue purity in your life?

9. The second question asked was, *Have You Been Washed ... From Your Sin?*

- a. Read **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**. Most of us have experienced the impact and damage of sexual sin. But what does this passage say happens to a person, regardless of their past, when they come under the leadership of Jesus?
- b. Are there any wounds from your past choices or sexual experiences that you struggle to believe have been washed clean? Through prayer, invite the Lord into that space to show you how He heals and restores.

10. Finally, C.S. Lewis writes, on page 101 of *Mere Christianity*: “*We may, indeed, be sure that perfect chastity—like perfect charity—will not be attained by any merely human efforts.*”

- a. Jesus walks with each of us on this journey toward purity. What is one specific way you can ask for Jesus’ help in this area? Write a brief prayer while doing so.