

Introduction

- Lauren's Story
- Mike's Story
- Paula's Story

When we fail to understand the difference between love and sex, we are doomed to failure in both our relationships and our sexuality.

A Word from God about Love & Sex – Ephesians 5:1-6

- **The Historical Setting** – Paul's Day
- **The Context** – God's Concern for Our Relationships

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:30-32 (NASB)

- **The Command** = Walk in Love! (vs. 1-4)

How?

1. **Positively** – Be giving, caring, sacrificial, and unselfish toward others.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ²and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NASB)

2. **Negatively** – Refuse to take, exploit, cheapen, defraud, or substitute sexual activity for genuine love and authentic intimacy.

*³But do not let immorality
or any impurity
or greed even be named among you,
as is proper among saints;*

*⁴and no filthiness,
silly talk,
coarse jesting, which are not fitting,
but rather giving of thanks.*

- **The Reason** = Sexual Impurity Destroys Relationships

⁵*For this you know with certainty, that
no immoral
or impure person
or covetous man, (who is an idolater),
has an inheritance in the kingdom
of Christ and God.*

⁶*Let no one deceive you
with empty words,*

*for because of these things (mentioned above)
the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.*

Ephesians 5:3-6 (NASB)

- **Where Do You Go From Here?**

- ♦ A word to uninvolved singles
- ♦ A word to involved singles
- ♦ A word to those in crisis
- ♦ A word to the married
- ♦ A word of hope for all of us – Isaiah 1:18-19

Application

1. What did you learn from this message?
2. Why is sex serious business to God?
3. Why is sex outside God's boundaries unloving and destructive in relationships?
4. What does obeying and trusting God in the arena of love and sex look like in your life?