

/Hello, we will now begin the fourth lecture on Christian ethics. /Today's topic is Christian sexual ethics. /Not too long ago, there was a survey conducted on how Korean college students perceived sex.

/According to the results of the study, more than 70% of both male and female students answered that there was no problem with premarital sex. /For example, first, 46.8% answered that premarital sex was acceptable if the couple loved each other.

/Then 20.4% answered that premarital sex was okay if the couple were engaged. /Then 8.5% answered that sex outside of marriage was okay whether two people loved each other or not.

/All together, 75.7% answered that premarital sex was acceptable. /This tendency is not only limited to college students, but is applicable to single men as well.

/According to studies by professors of the department of sociology at Ehwa Women's University, /86.5% of single males between the ages of 20-30 answered that they had sexual intercourse outside of marriage. /Among them, 63.8% answered that they had extramarital affairs.

/These facts show that three out of four young adults in Korea's society take part in sexual intercourse without believing it to be an issue.

/We must first look at the definition and purpose of sexual intercourse. /Sex is a gift from God. /God made sex an instrument by which a man and a woman come together to become one in flesh.

/Sex is a unique and mysterious instrument by which two people share their love and heart. /The Bible describes sexual intercourse with the term, "Yada," which means, "to know."

/This means that sexual intercourse has a unique meaning to it, /and the meaning, "to know" does not simply indicate knowledge of the mind.

/"To know" means to "practically experience and know an existing being." /Luke 1:34 says, when the angel appeared before Mary and told her that she would give birth to a son, Mary answered, "How will this be since I am a virgin?"

/Mary says that she is a virgin, which means that she did not have sexual intercourse with a man. /Mary expressed that she was a pure virgin.

/When a man and a woman know each other sexually, they are in a whole, personal, and intimate relationship, which means that they know each other physically and mentally. /Thus, the Bible says that sexual intercourse must take place when two people leave their parents to become one in marriage as two independent people.

/The Bible says, “a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” /The Bible gives us many guidelines about premarital sex through many occurrences.

/Jacob made a deal with his uncle Laban that he would be given Rachel as his wife. /Then the Bible records that Jacob waited and worked for seven years to be married to Rachel.

/This shows us that Jacob avoided sexual intercourse with Rachel before he was married to her. /The Law of Moses commanded that a bride who was not a virgin on her wedding night was to be stoned to death.

/If a man slept with a virgin who was not engaged, he was to take her as his wife. /These laws strictly forbid sex before marriage.

/The New Testament speaks more strictly about adultery. /“Adultery” in the New Testament refers to improper sexual acts outside of marriage.

/The apostle Paul warns that those who commit adultery will be physically destroyed. /Not only that, but Paul says that those who commit adultery will not inherit the kingdom of God. /1 Corinthians 7:2 says, “since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.”

/Verses such as this strictly forbid premarital sex. /Then why does the Bible tell us to avoid adultery? /First, the act of adultery is the act of self-destruction.

/Proverbs 6:32 says, “a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself.” /Adultery destroys our flesh. /Not only that, but adultery also destroys our souls.

/1 Corinthians 6:18 says, “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.” /The sin of adultery leaves deeper scars and darker shadows in one’s soul more than any other sin.

/There are many famous individuals in today’s societies that fail greatly as a result of such sins. /A foreign president was shamed for adultery.

/A foreign prime minister was forced to leave his position because of such inappropriate behavior. /A famous pastor in America also failed greatly because of such sins. /Sometimes, pastors fall to this sin and cover the glory of God.

/Thus, Proverbs 22:14 says, he who is under God’s wrath will fall into adultery. /Therefore, we must always be alert and awake so that we do not fall to such sins. /The second reason for why we must avoid adultery is because adultery destroys families.

/A man and a woman start a family through marriage and through God’s will. /Then if

one of them fall to the sin of adultery, the relationship of love will be broken and the family would ultimately be destroyed.

/There is a Jewish saying, “Immoral acts in a family is like an insect that feeds on vegetables.” /Just as vegetables wither when bugs eat through them, sexually immoral acts ruin families.

/The consequences of adultery are broken love and divorce, /children left without parents, /sexual diseases, /economic difficulties, /and loss of one’s honor. /There are many Korean families that suffer from the problem of divorce.

/Divorce is not necessarily the result of sexual immorality, but a great number of divorces result from problems regarding sex. /Third, adultery destroys society.

/A theologian claimed that the crime of adultery is both a personal crime and a societal crime. /David is an example of such a case.

/When David committed adultery, he was disciplined by God and received great physical and spiritual suffering, and he sought God’s forgiveness in his struggles.

/Not only that, but God’s discipline took effect on David’s family, and David’s son Amnon raped his half-sister, Tamar. /Tamar’s older brother, Absalom, then got revenge and killed his half-brother Amnon.

/In this way, adultery resulted in unhappiness in David’s family. /Then Absalom rebelled against his father, King David, and tried to kill him. /As a result, a civil war took place in Israel.

/In this way, crime brings damage upon societies and nations. /The Bible says that God destroyed the people of Noah’s generation with a flood because of their sins. /What was the main sin during Noah’s time? /It was the fall of sexual morality.

/The sons of God saw that the daughters of man were beautiful and married them. /Sodom and Gomorrah were also destroyed with fire and sulfur. /The cities were destroyed because there were not ten righteous men. /What was the main sin of Sodom?

/It was the sin of adultery. /Sodom and Gomorrah were corrupted with homosexuality. When God’s angels went into the city, the town attempted to sleep with them. /Lot’s daughters gave their father wine, slept with him, and had his children.

/Man committed adultery with man, and woman with woman, and Sodom and Gomorrah was sexually corrupt. /The fall of sexual morality was also the reason for the fall of the great Roman Empire. /The Bible says that the sin that this world will be destroyed for in the Last Days will be this sin.

/Jesus said, just as it was in the days of Noah and Sodom and Gomorrah, so also will it be

in the days of the Son of Man. /Jesus pointed out that this world was wicked and perverse.

/Revelation calls the Last Days, the prostitute of Babylon. /It says that all peoples will fall to this sin. /Adultery is a terrifying sin that destroys individuals, families, societies, and nations.

/Fourth, we must avoid adultery because terrifying judgment will follow. /The Law commands that any man or woman that commits adultery is to be put to death.

/The two sons of Eli the priest, Hophni and Phinehas, slept with the women who served at the Tent of Meeting, and were killed in battle through God's judgment. /As previously mentioned, David's blessed family received God's great judgment because of David's sin of adultery.

/1 Corinthians 5:5 says about adulterers, "the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord." /Adultery is one of the greatest sins that God hates.

/Those who fall to this sin will receive God's judgment, whether it is small or great. /Some will be judged with illnesses. /Some will be judged with accidents. /Some will be judged with misfortune and calamities.

/Then those who fail to repent to the end will be judged with death. /Thus, the apostle Paul said that those who fall to this sin will be physically destroyed.

/The sin of adultery is the greatest sin that God hates, and there will be great judgment. Then how can we overcome the sin of adultery and gain victory?

/First, we must avoid it. /1 Corinthians 6:18. /We are to fight against all sins as soldiers of Christ. /We must fight to the point of shedding blood. /However, it says to avoid the sin of adultery.

/Fire and oil are safe when they are separate, yet, when they are brought near each other, it will ignite and there will be a great disaster. /The relationship between man and woman must be avoided because they are like fire and oil.

/Hence, they must be separated. /They must avoid people with whom they may commit adultery. /They must avoid places they may commit adultery in. /They must avoid environments where they may commit adultery in. /They must not participate in events that may lead to adultery.

/Many people fall to this sin by attending events, meeting people, and going places while thinking, "This should be all right." /Joseph overcame this sin by running away from the place where Potipher's wife seduced him.

/Potipher's wife held on to Joseph's cloak as Joseph ran away from the house. /If Joseph

had not left the house at that time, he would have fallen to this sin.

/Second, we can overcome the sin of adultery with fear of the Lord.

/What goes on in the minds of those who commit adultery? /They fool themselves by believing that no one is watching them.

/However, that is a delusion. /Certainly, man's eyes may not be watching. /However, no one can avoid God's fiery eyes. /Modern science continues to make scientific civilizations.

/Among them is the usage of laser beams. /With it, we can see what is inside a house without having to go in. /We can see what is underground without having to dig through the ground.

/We can see what is underwater without having to dive underwater. /Even man's tools can see all this, and there is no place in creation that our Creator God's eyes cannot see.

/God knows the number of hair on our heads. /He knows every action of our bodies, and he knows every thought in our minds.

/When Joseph was seduced by Potiphar's wife, he spoke. /"How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" Joseph feared God. /Proverbs 16:10; Proverbs 16:16.

/Therefore, it is important that we have faith that fears God. /We must know of God's presence. /When Jonah hid below deck to hide from God's command, he believed he was safe, yet, God was watching him.

/Third, we can overcome the sin of adultery when the love between a married couple deepens. /Marriage is not only a union of the flesh, but also signifies a personal bond. /There can be times of difficulty when the bond between husband and wife becomes weak.

/Paul speaks about this in 1 Corinthians chapter 7. /Each man should have his own wife. /Each woman should have her own husband. /Then Paul continues, "The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband."

/There are many duties the husband is to fulfill towards his wife. /There is the duty of taking care of financial affairs, /the duty of protecting his family, /and the duty of raising his children.

/The same goes for the wife. /She must fulfill her duty in supporting her husband. /She must fulfill the duty of taking care of the home, /and the duty of raising her children.

/However, the "duty" here indicates a different kind of duty. /The "duty" stated here that both the husband and wife must fulfill is a sexual duty.

/When such an intimate relationship is broken, it becomes difficult to block out temptations from the outside. /Many husbands refuse their wives in bed with excuses such as, “There was a lot to do at work today and I’m very tired...”

/Wives refuse their husbands in bed with excuses about stress and other reasons. /When this continues, distrust will grow between husband and wife.

/Thus, their personal bond will begin to break. /The magical relationship of love between the two will begin to break. /Then there is the possibility that it will lead to the sin of adultery.

/Fourth, we must devote ourselves to God’s Word and prayer to overcome the sin of adultery. /Satan prowls around like a roaring lion to devour us.

/Satan will especially use the weapon of adultery to destroy believers in the Last Days. /Therefore, we must be awake in prayer to overcome this sin. /We must also be armed with the full armor of God’s Word.

/We must always have God’s Word and prayer so that we could overcome temptations. /Psalm 119:9 says, “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.”

/Sexual desires in young men are very strong. /Therefore, it is easy for them to fall to temptations. /They can avoid this when they are armed with God’s Word and when they are careful with their actions.

/They can avoid this sin when they obey God’s Word and fear God. /Prayer is also the way to overcome all temptations of the devil. /Jesus also told us to pray.

/David fell to this sin. /It says that David took Bathsheba into his house in the evening. /This means that David napped during the day. /What was happening at the time David was napping? Joab, the commander of the army, was in battle with his soldiers.

/The king napped while the men of his nation fought for their lives, and this action shows how smug and dissolute David was. /David did not pray.

/Therefore, he was unable to control his sexual desires when he saw Bathsheba bathing. /The same thing happened to Solomon. /When Solomon was awake in prayer, he sought God’s wisdom and pleased God.

/However, when Solomon’s kingdom grew and the nation found peace, he began to grow dissolute. /He became absorbed in wine and women. /He even bowed down before idols that the women worshipped.

/Solomon’s spirit failed to stay awake before God, and hence, he fell to such sins. /Today,

we live in a wicked and perverse time.

/We must protect the chastity of our bodies and hearts, and we must live as the bride of Christ. In order to do so, we must be armed with God's Word and with prayer.

/Here, we will conclude the fourth lecture on Christian ethics. /Thank you.