A large tree stands in the center of the image, split vertically. The left side of the tree is bare and dark, while the right side is lush with vibrant green leaves. The ground is also split: the left side is a cracked, brown, arid landscape, and the right side is a rolling green hillside. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds on the left and lighter, blue sky with white clouds on the right. The text 'A NEW SEASON' is overlaid in the center, with 'A' at the top, 'NEW' in the middle, and 'SEASON' at the bottom, all in a white, serif font.

A  
NEW  
SEASON



“a new season of  
expressing  
our core values  
and  
what we’re called to do”

“Prepare to  
become a place  
where the glory of God  
does not just come to visit  
**but rather where  
the glory of God  
comes to dwell.”**

*January 29, 2019*

In him you  
also are being  
built together into  
a dwelling place  
for God by the  
Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22

“Prepare to  
become a planter  
where the glory  
does not just come  
**but rather**  
the glory of  
comes to dwell

*January 29, 2019*

I therefore,  
a prisoner for  
the Lord, urge you  
to walk in a manner  
worthy of the calling  
to which you have  
been called....

Ephesians 4:1

In him you  
so are being  
together into  
a dwelling place  
God by the  
Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22

But among you there must not be even a hint  
of sexual immorality,  
or of any kind of impurity,  
or of greed

because these are improper for God's holy people....

For you were formerly darkness,  
but now *you are* light in *the* Lord.

Be walking as children *of* light  
(<sup>9</sup> for the fruit *of* the light *is* in  
all goodness and righteousness and truth)

<sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord.

Ephesians 5:3,8-10 NIV



Do I value God's truth above the passions and preferences of my old nature and/or human opinion?

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,<sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth....

2 Timothy 4:3-4

Do I carry the truth in a manner that values and respects people *and* makes it safe for them to work out their response?

meekness

yielded and responsive to the Spirit rather than reactive to peoples' brokenness and provocations

gentle, rather than harsh, with those who are working through their struggles and issues

sincere humility, recognizing our own vulnerability to sin and share of brokenness

Brothers, if a man is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, watching yourselves, lest you also be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2 MEV



But among you there must not be even a hint  
of sexual immorality,  
or of any kind of impurity,  
or of greed,  
because these are improper for God's kingdom.  
Ephesians 5:3,8-10 NIV

porneia  
“any kind of  
sex outside of  
marriage”  
Dr. Lee Gatiss



“The overwhelming weight of scholarship and all the available evidence from the ancient world points firmly in this direction.”

Lee Gatiss,  
*The Issue of Pre-Marital Sex*

“all sex beyond  
the marriage bed”

Kyle Harper,

*From Shame to Sin:  
The Christian Transformation of  
Sexual Morality in Late Antiquity*





June 26, 2015

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down all state bans on same-sex marriage, legalized it in all fifty states, and required states to honor out-of-state same-sex marriage licenses.

“Same-sex love,  
regardless of age,  
status, or role, was  
forbidden without  
qualification and  
without remorse.”

Kyle Harper



“Same-sex love,  
regardless of age,  
status, or role, was  
forbidden without  
qualification and  
without remorse.”

Kyle Harper

If a man lies  
with a male as with a  
woman, both of them have  
committed an abomination;  
they shall surely be put  
to death; their blood  
is upon them.

Leviticus 20:13

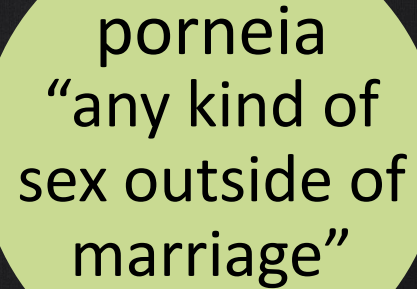


The early church  
defined *porneia* as  
“all sex beyond  
the marriage bed

The early church defined *porneia* as “all sex beyond the marriage bed and it came to mark the great divide between Christians and the world.”

“Nowhere did the moral expectations of the Jesus movement stand in such stark contrast to the world in which its adherents moved.”

For out of the heart come  
evil thoughts,  
murder,  
adultery,  
sexual immorality,  
theft,  
false witness,  
slander.



porneia  
“any kind of  
sex outside of  
marriage”

<sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person.

Matthew 15:19-20a ESV



He raised  
the bar on  
adultery.

He cleared  
up the  
Sabbath.

He raised  
the bar on  
divorce.

He wiped  
out the  
food laws.

“But I say to you that whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

Matthew 5:28

“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband....”

Mark 10:11-12

“What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out?”

Matthew 12:11

“...it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

Mark 7:19

Jesus raised the bar on adultery.

He raised the bar on divorce.

He clarified misunderstandings related to the Sabbath.

And he wiped out the food laws altogether.

But he did nothing to adjust or soften the prevailing Jewish understanding of what constituted sexual immorality.

He didn't elaborate simply because there was no controversy.



But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

Acts 15:5 ESV

For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit  
and to us to lay on you no greater burden  
than these requirements: <sup>29</sup> that you abstain  
from what has been sacrificed to idols,  
and from blood,  
and from what has been strangled,  
and from sexual immorality.

Acts 15:28-29 ESV

porneia  
“any kind of  
sex outside of  
marriage”

For this is the will of God, your sanctification:  
that you abstain from sexual immorality;  
<sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body  
in holiness and honor,  
<sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles  
who do not know God....

1 Thessalonians 4:2-5 ESV



Flee from sexual immorality.

Every other sin a person commits  
is outside the body,  
but the sexually immoral person  
sins against his own body.

<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body  
is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,  
whom you have from God?

You are not your own,  
<sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price.

So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 ESV

But among you there must not be  
even a hint of sexual immorality....

Ephesians 5:3 NIV