

Read:

Ephesians 5:5 // ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Proverbs 31:8-9 // ⁸ Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.

⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Ezekiel 34:16 // ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

Big Questions:

- Why is sexual harassment and assault such a huge, far reaching, and damaging problem? What are the core issues?
- How do we as a church respond to #MeToo? To the victims, perpetrators, and everyone else? How do we stand against the darkness?

Teaching Points:

- Over 12 million Facebook posts with “#MeToo” in 24 hours.
- “According to the Bureau of Justice, women sixteen to nineteen years old have the highest rate of sexual victimization of any age group.”
- Viewing or using others as simply sexual objects tramples over the truth of the Imago Dei; that they are image-bearers of God and cannot be reduced to an object.
- Because of God’s wrath against injustice, sin, and violence, we as His Church should pursue justice, healing, and peace.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is sexual harassment and assault so common? How does our culture or society influence or affect people’s perception of sexual harassment/assault?
- How do you view those who have come forward and said “me too”? Why do you think they have done so? Do you think it’s effective?
- How do the perpetrators of sexual assault view their victims? How does an understanding of the Imago Dei affect sexual harassment and assault?
- What is the heart behind sexual harassment and assault? Why does it happen and why do people do it? What is the effect on the victim?
- What do we do now? What can you and I do?

Further Resources:

- <http://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/october/unsettling-truth-behind-metoo-movement-harvey-weinstein.html>
- <https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/sexual-assault-and-the-imago-dei>
- <https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/encouragement-to-metoo-victims-inside-the-church>
- <https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/metoo-the-prevalence-of-sexual-assault-and-a-call-to-the-church>

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- Because of God’s wrath against injustice, sin, and violence, we as His Church should pursue justice, healing, and peace.

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- How do you view those who have come forward and said “me too”? Why do you think they have done so? Do you think it’s effective?
- In your life, have you ever experienced sexual assault, abuse, or harassment? #YouToo? What do you think your response would be? How would you deal with it?
- What is our response in the face of potential or actual sexual assault or harassment? What steps can we take before (prevention), during (help), and after (healing)? Psychologically, spiritually, and physically?
- What do we do now? How can the church help?

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