



THE GENESIS OF SEX

AND THE WAY OF JESUS

WEEK 2 NOTES **MAY 1**

KEY THOUGHTS

- We guard the things that are valuable to us. G.K.Chesterton once said, "We shouldn't take down the fence until we know what it was put for in the first place."
- See last week in regard to how we have conversations, why worldview is so important, and why Jesus' (full of grace and truth) is so ideal in looking at the topic of sex.
- A God-focused, Biblically- shaped worldview is always good, always beneficial, always just.
- Genesis 2:22-25 – one of the great treasures in sex is wrapped up in the phrase "they were both naked and unashamed." – transparency, vulnerability, safe
- Sex was clearly given by God as a gift, included in that is it is saturated with pleasure. See the entire book of Song of Solomon!
- Scott Sauls, Jesus Outside the Lines – People who understand the Bible's vision for sex also understand that the physical union of a man and a woman is more a sign than it is a destination. It is not an end in itself. Sex is symbolic as much as it is real. It represents a holistic approach to nakedness, full and reciprocal transparency in which man and woman are fully exposed yet not rejected, fully known yet completely embraced.
- What The Fall brought to the table in all sin, particularly in regard to sex:
 - Creation is not as it was designed.
 - Misuse/Abuse Gifts of Creation
 - Over-independence: we think our perspective is what is best for us
 - Over-confidence: "Sin isn't as bad as God says. Why you making a big deal of that?"
 - Over-justification: "I'm fine." Martin Lloyd-Jones, in Seeking the Face of God – "You will never make yourself feel that you are a sinner, because there is a mechanism in you as a result of sin that will always be defending you against every accusation."
 - Life is not what it should be.
- What God "made" in the gift of sex has value!

- God has designed “naked and unashamed” to be celebrated only between a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage.
- Sam Alberry, *Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?* (p.9-10) – “But now, increasingly, we are thought of as being dangerous to society. Our views on sex have become that significant. Who we sleep with is seen as a supreme human right. Anything that seems to constrain our choice in this area is somehow viewed as an existential threat.”
- Tim Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage* (p.257) – “Indeed, sex is perhaps the most powerful God created way to help you give your entire self to another human being. Sex is God’s appointed way for two people to reciprocally say to one another, “I belong completely, permanently, and exclusively to you.” You must not use sex to say anything less.”

- **THE CHALLENGES TO GOD’S SEXUAL ETHIC**

Polygamy and Polyamory – primary difference in the two is polygamy includes marriage

- Justification behind it is typically that polygamy was common in the Old Testament.
- But Scripture is often descriptive, not prescriptive.
- By New Testament times, even cultural standards significantly changed. Polygamy was illegal in Roman times.
- For more info, see article on our resource list by Dr. Branson Parler, *The Bible, Polyamory, and Monogamy*
- **Homosexuality**
 - See Romans 1:26-27 for New Covenant understanding of God’s view
 - It’s not the same-sex attraction, but the acting out on it, that is sinful
 - See Dr Nate Collins and Greg Coles article, *Is Same-Sex Attraction (or Being Gay) a Sin?*
 - Also see Dr. Preston Sprinkle, *15 Reasons For Affirming Same-Sex Relations – and 15 Responses*
 - In responses regarding being phobic (which is intentionally a conversation-stopping word), we also need to ask of all of us (including ourselves) whether we are moral-phobic.
- **Porneia** – New Testament word used to describe a variety of acts of sexual immorality. Within that are the following:
- **Extramarital and premarital sex - fornication = sexual intercourse between people who are not married**
 - Don’t let culture be your thermometer to measure right/wrong in regard to who you have sex with.
 - Why is it so bad? Particularly in our culture? Hebrews 13:4!
 - This speaks to teens, to parents, to all the unmarried, to those living together, and to those married. It speaks to all of us.

- Lust

- Matthew 5:27-28
- Once again, Jesus raised the bar well above what we find around us (or in us).
- Once again, a God-focused Biblically-shaped worldview says He has the right.
- Lust is a strong desire for what is forbidden.
- There is nothing encouraging when you explore current statistics
- The heart of the problem is looking in order to have strong desires. Thoughts and desires are important. Proverbs 4:23-26.
- What to do if lust, and particularly pornography, has been a losing battle for you:
 - Acknowledge this is a heart and relationship issue.
 - Recognize the slippery slope. Do more than steer clear ... early!
 - Put up guardrails.
 - Pray for the Help. Early in the day and often.
 - Don't be afraid to reach out. (We will be glad to recommend professional help if it's beyond what a Jesus-following friend can help you navigate.)
 - Seek some accountability. Someone you can be honest with.
- For those who find yourselves bucking against this, our challenge is to be wiser. Worldview matters!
- For those who struggle, and you find yourself losing, this is NOT your identity. If you are a Jesus-follower, THAT IS YOUR IDENTITY!

SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 2:22-25
- Song of Solomon
- Romans 1:26-27
- Hebrews 13:4
- Matthew 5:27-28
- Proverbs 4:23-26

RESOURCES

- Sam Alberry, Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?
- Nancy Pearcey, Love Thy Body (particularly chapter 5 to discuss the homosexual argument)
- Dr. Nate Collins and Greg Coles, Is Same-Sex Attraction (or Being Gay) a Sin? https://www.centerforfaith.com/sites/default/files/cfsg_pastoral_papers_3_0.pdf
- Great article on arguments for affirming LGBT+, and responses – Dr. Preston Sprinkle, 15 Reasons For Affirming Same-Sex Relations – and 15 Responses - https://www.centerforfaith.com/sites/default/files/cfsg_pastoral_papers_5.pdf

- Great article on monogamy and polygamy – Dr. Branson Parler, The Bible, Polyamory, and Monogamy -
https://www.centerforfaith.com/sites/default/files/cfsg_pastoral_papers_13_1.pdf
- For women in particular who struggle with porn and porn addiction – honest, compassionate, challenging article by Joy Pedro, 5 Things Leaders Need to Know About Women who Struggle with Porn Addiction -
<https://voice.dts.edu/article/five-things-leaders-need-to-know-about-women-who-struggle-with-porn-addiction/>
- For help with what you watch on phone or computer – Covenant Eyes monitors, reports to an accountability partner, and restricts access to graphic websites – www.covenanteyes.com
- If you would like a recommendation for professional counselors that can assist you in walking through abuse, addiction, or other issues regarding sexuality, please contact one of our pastors for recommendations for Biblical counseling in our area. Of course, all contacts with us will remain confidential.