

Sermon: What God Says about Sexual Purity

Text: **I Corinthians 6:9-11, 14-20 ESV**

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Last week's text: I Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

This week's text: I Corinthians 6:14-20 ESV 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 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, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Introduction: All of God's creation was made with a purpose - to bring honor to Him. Man and woman are not exceptions. Humans were created sexual beings (both male and female).

Seventh grade health class may teach anatomy, but it does not talk about the soul. The problem with sex education is not that we tell them too much. It is that we do not tell them the whole story, and God is left out of the discussion. Today, it is completely mind-boggling what replaces talk about God.

When you have sex with someone you give away more than your body. You leave a bit of your soul.

Entertainment Weekly talked about a Jeremy Irons film (1992) called "Damage." It was said, "we are watching two people who bond through sex, but who remain spiritually separate, who just agree to use each other." **It's just a transaction!**

In “Indecent Proposal” with Woody Harrelson, Robert Redford, and Demi Moore, Redford offers a large sum of money to Woody and Demi to have sex with her. She says, “All I am going to give him is my body. I won’t give him my heart.” Yet, that is not the way it works; that is a lie.

Sex is not a dirty word, even though our culture has cheapened what God meant to be pure and good. It is something that the church needs to discuss in a healthy, open atmosphere.

Illus. A Deming elder did not want me to say the word “sex” because it embarrassed his wife. What an unhealthy attitude. She probably had never read, at least outloud, the Song of Solomon. My grandparents didn’t like the word “pregnant” because it sounded like a crude word that Christians shouldn’t voice.

Today, there is a real concerted effort to distort God’s word on this subject by the liberal, godless culture. The culture says that virtually all sexual activity is normal, OK, and healthy. The Bible has different things to say. There is:

I. Sex God Approves (Genesis 2:18, 20-25)

Genesis 2:18, 20-25 ESV 18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

To be united as one flesh is supposed to be a permanent arrangement. What God has joined together, man cannot (should not) separate. You leave a part of your soul with that mate. It pictures God faithfulness to the world. If there is divorce of infidelity, a part of you is torn away.

Illus. How many of you remember Jeff Daniels in “Dumb and Dumber?” It is never advisable to put your wet tongue on a pipe outside in the winter. If you do that, you can leave, but not all of you will go with you.

God approves of sex:

A. Within marriage (husband and wife)

Men and women were created to complement each other.

I Corinthians 11:11-12 ESV ¹¹ Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; ¹² for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.

Intimacy can be shared without ever touching, but it is normal for married couples to touch each other. Sex *within* marriage is something God blesses.

Sometimes sex is to be offered:

B. Out of concern for your mate’s needs (**I Corinthians 7:1-5**)

I Corinthians 7:5 ESV ⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Sometimes we meet needs out of love even though emotionally it is difficult.

(Anchor Bible Dictionary Volume 5, p. 1144) “Intact families demand sexual fidelity, and one way to ensure this is to find sexual satisfaction in marriage:”

Proverbs 5:18-19 ESV ¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, ¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.

Sexually pure lives honor God. It is clear that the church, those who love God, must behave differently than the world.

I Thessalonians 4:3-8 ESV ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

II. Sex God Disapproves (Romans 1:18-32)

Sexual immorality is nothing new. You remember the story of King David and Bathsheba. It was rampant in Paul's day as well, especially in Corinth.

A. Adultery (Proverbs 5)

A lie is not betrayal until it destroys the bond of friendship. "It is not the fact that you lied to me that is so terrible," Nietzsche once said, "but the fact that I can no longer trust you."

People who commit adultery many times are looking for love, acceptance, or appreciation rather than sex.

Another reason that adultery is such a terrible sin is that the church is supposed to be pure in its members, and how the husband is to represent Christ, and the wife, the Church.

There is a real common statement among the liberal press that says that Evangelical Christians hate homosexuals, etc. Nothing could be further from the truth. We love them. We do not want them or anyone to go to Hell.

B. Homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22, 28-39), including lesbianism in the NT.

Here is what happens: man (humanity) gives up on God. God allows people to follow base instincts and carry out their own deaths while still alive.

Romans 1:24-28 ESV 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

The reason that this is a sin is that it does not keep the categories of “male” and “female” intact. Anything that blurs the lines even cross-dressing is also prohibited. (**Deuteronomy 22:5**)

One of the reasons that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed was their sexual perversion. What they were doing is described in **Romans 1** as unnatural. Homosexuality many times is the result of abuse and/or improper parental models. It is not though, a genetic inevitability. It is a learned sin.

God also has a strong disapproval of other sinful perversions such as incest (**Leviticus 18:6**) – child sex abuse and bestiality (**Exodus 22:19**). And if you think that is perverted, there is even depravity that is sex with a corpse that is called necrophilia. Sex within marriage when there is no thought for the other person is also wrong.

You see what our culture has done. Everything and everyone becomes sexualized for personal pleasure and perversion and throw-aways. People are treated like objects rather than persons made in God’s image. Self-gratification becomes everyone’s goal in every area of life.

III. Sex God Forgives (I John 1:8-10**)**

I John 1:8-10 ESV 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

A. Sex does not equal love.

Everyone wants intimacy, but sex does not equal love anymore than having children makes you a good mother.

B. Intimacy is a result of hard work.

Dr. Desmond Morris in his book “Intimate Behavior” talks about bonding in the marital relationships. He says there are 12 steps to intimacy and that the bonding between the two people in a covenant that links them soul-to-soul.

Illus. When building models, you have to wait and be patient for the glue to dry.

Dr. Morris says that bonding occurs when you **SLOWLY** and **SYSTEMATICALLY** move through these 12 steps:

1. Eye to body (love at first sight)
2. Eye to eye

There is no question that physical beauty attracts, but that will not keep a marriage together. Peter understood that inner beauty was a more important quality in the marriage relationship.

I Peter 3:1-5 ESV 1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,

3. Voice to voice
4. Hand to hand

5. Hand to shoulder
6. Hand to waist

7. Face to face (cheek to cheek, first kiss)

8. Hair to hair (caress, stroke)

For married couples only:

9. Hand to body

10. Mouth to breast

11. Touching below the waist.

12. Sexual intercourse

The good news is: all sexual sin can be forgiven if you repent. (**John 7:53-8:11**)

Conclusion: Much of the unhappiness we encounter in life could be avoided if we would only follow God's plan in the area of sexuality. Faithfulness to God will bless us in every relationship as long as we honor the scriptural boundaries. We can have intimacy without sin. Don't sell out eternity for short-term gratification. (**Hebrews 12:16; 13:4**)

Hebrews 12:16 ESV ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.

Hebrews 13:4 ESV ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Dr. Richard Selzer writes: I stand by the bed where a woman lies – a young woman, her face post-operative, her mouth twisted and palsied – clownish. A tiny twig of the facial nerve – the one to the muscles of her mouth has been severed. She will be thus from now on. The surgeon had followed up with religious fervor the curve of her flesh (he was the surgeon), I promise you that. Nevertheless, to remove the tumor in her cheek, I had cut that little nerve.

Her young husband is in the room. He stands on the opposite side of the bed and together they seem to dwell in the evening lamplight – isolated from me and private. “Who are they?” I asked myself. He and this wry mouth that I have made, who gaze at and touch each other so generously and so greedily.

The young woman speaks: “Will my mouth always be like this?”

“Yes,” I say, “it will.” It is because the little nerve was cut.

She nods and is silent, but the young man smiles. “I like it,” he says. “It is kinda cute.”

All at once I know who he is. I understand and I lower my gaze. One is not bold in an encounter with a god. Unmindful he bends to kiss her crooked mouth, and I so close, I can see how he twists his own lips to accommodate hers – to show her that her kiss still works. I remember that the gods appeared in ancient Greece as mortals and I hold my breath and let the wonder in.

That kind of love and commitment for a woman is so unusual that the author calls him a god. He is not a god. That is committed love, and if you are fortunate enough to find a relationship like that, don't ever give it away.

Application: Jesus changed his form so as to meet our needs. He humbled himself. He sacrificed himself. As the bridegroom he looks at his church and sees all our weaknesses (and ugliness sometimes), but we are the most beautiful to Him.

DRANO METHOD FOR POSITIVE SPIRITUAL CHANGE

Desire - "I desire to do your will, O God," David wrote. "Your law is within my heart."

Repent - A conscious decision to reverse the direction of your life.

Actions - Actions speak louder than words, and wanting to stop is not the same as stopping.

No looking back - I can not change the past, only the future can be different through forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Ongoing process - Defeating a bad habit is an ongoing process. Breaking a habit is simply learning another habit – one that contradicts the first one.

"To cling always to God and to the things of God - this must be our major effort, this must be the road that the heart follows." - John Cassian

**We need to glorify God with our lives.
God's reputation is important and so is ours!**