

## Biblical sexuality

### 1. Preamble

- a. Dismiss children
  - i. Wording...
  - ii. Grade school and under...
  - iii. No pressure...

### b. Go over series schedule

### 2. Scripture reading

- a. Genesis 2:18-24 (no Scripture reading)

### 3. Introduction

- a. Our culture believes that sex is nothing and sex is everything.<sup>1</sup> What do I mean?

#### b. *We believe that sex is nothing!*

- i. Sex is merely a physical act.
- ii. It is simply an instinct, like the instinct to eat food, scratch an itch, or drink water.
- iii. Most think Porn (a 90-billion-dollar industry) is no big deal, it is just looking at pictures.
- iv. Others think that adultery is no big deal, if you don't get caught.
- v. Furthermore, most singles expect to have sex after the first or second date.
- vi. We believe that sex is nothing, it is not a big deal.

#### c. *At the same time, we believe that sex is everything!*

- i. Culture tells us that if you are not having great sex *all the time* you will be miserable.
- ii. If you can't express your sexuality however you want, you are not fully human.
- iii. Sexuality has become the key aspect of one's identity.
- iv. Since sex is everything, marketers use sex to sell everything from beer, to cotton balls, to car radiators.
- v. The "sex is everything and sex is nothing" mentality leads to massive heartache, pain, and suffering. There must be a better way!!!

#### d. There is a better way.

- i. There is God's way.
- ii. Contrary to popular belief, the Bible is very keen on sex.
- iii. So, what does the Bible say about sexuality? Many things, I want to focus on three...
  1. *The creation of sex*
  2. *The destruction of sex*

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<sup>1</sup> I think this comes from Tim Keller

### 3. The redemption of sex

#### 1. The creation of sex

##### a. Intro...

- i. God created sex!
- ii. But why? several reasons...

##### b. God created sex for procreation.

i. **Genesis 1:28 (ESV) – 28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

1. God commanded Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, so that they could fill the earth with children and subdue the earth with their families, thus fulfilling the cultural mandate.
2. God could have created a way for us to produce children that was non-sexual, involving no pleasure at all, but God chose to make the act of procreation very pleasurable.
3. Since sex is enjoyable, we can safely imply that God want us to have lots of children. How many? That is between you and God.

##### ii. Application:

1. Do you share God's view of children?
2. He obviously likes them, which is one of the reasons he made sex so enjoyable.
3. Furthermore, creating children is one of the ways that we image God the creator. He creates life, and we can create life. Amazing!

iii. *Yet sex was created for more than procreation, which brings us to the second point. God created sex for procreation. In addition...*

##### c. God created sex for pleasure.

##### i. Introduction

1. How do we know?
2. God designed all our sex organs and nerve endings.
3. Furthermore, the Bible contains an entire book devoted to the beauty and pleasure of sexual intimacy in the context of marriage—The Song of Songs!!!
4. Furthermore, the book of Proverbs extols sexuality in the context of marriage. Consider this verse-

ii. **Proverbs 5:15–19 (ESV) – 15** Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. **16** Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? **17** Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. **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.

1. In this passage, a wise father counsels his son to pursue sexual purity by taking great delight in his wife's breasts and being intoxicated with her love. (Prov. 5:19)
  2. The Bible is not a book for the prude.
  3. The expressions "at all times" and "always" in verse 19 imply that sexual intimacy should be a joyful experience for a married couple even into old age. (Grudem, 708)
- iii. Sexual pleasure was designed by God for the glory of God.
1. "Sexual stimulation, the sexual climax, and sexual fulfillment are God's gracious gift for humanity, to be gratefully enjoyed without shame, guilt, or fear. Within the marriage bond, sex becomes the ultimate physical expression of deep, committed, and devoted love." (Kostenberger, 82)
- iv. Therefore, it is not surprising that Christians devoted to God and each other, have the best sex. Many studies bear this out...
1. "Another study concluded, 'When it comes to relationship quality in heterosexual relationships, highly religious couples enjoy higher-quality relationships and more sexual satisfaction, compared to less/mixed religious couples and secular couples.'<sup>20</sup> The National Health and Social Life Survey, the most detailed analysis of sexual behavior in America, found that people in intact marriages who worshiped weekly 'were most likely to report feeling wanted and needed during intercourse' (94.9 percent).<sup>21</sup> Yet how often does Hollywood or television feature married religious couples enjoying a happy, sexually vibrant relationship? How often do sex education courses teach young people that if they want a fulfilling sex life, they should get married and go to church?" (Percy, TTWOM, 40-41)
  2. A University of Chicago study found that religious people who are married have the best sex lives. They engage in sex more frequently, find it more satisfying and fun, and have the longest-lived sex lives. The study found that conservative evangelical Protestant women reported the most satisfying sex and the most orgasms. (Grudem, Ethics, 709)
  3. This is proof for the Christian worldview. How? When you do things the Bible's way it leads to unbridled joy. When you ignore God's instructions, it leads to unbridled pain.
- v. Application
1. God created sex to be very enjoyable in the context of heterosexual monogamous marriage.
  2. This implies that loving marital sex is not gross, dirty, or something to be ashamed of.

3. If you have experienced sexual pleasure in context of marriage, give thanks to God for his gracious gift.
4. One scholar writes,
  - a. "The reason that sex is fun, pleasurable, and wonderful is because it is a reflection of the loving goodness of God, who created it as a gift for us to steward and enjoy." (Driscoll, 109)

- vi. *God created sex for procreation*
- vii. *God created sex for pleasure*

**d. God created sex for permanence (i.e., bonding).**

**i. Genesis 2:21–24 (ESV) — 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.

1. Moses explains that the sexual union between a man and a woman makes them one flesh. What does this mean?
2. This refers to something more profound than the physical. How do we know?

**ii. 1 Corinthians 6:16–18 (ESV) — 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.

**iii. 1 Corinthians 6:20 (ESV) — 20** for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1. Clearly one flesh means something more profound than a physical union otherwise Paul would be guilty of a tautology. A tautology is same the same thing twice.
  - a. It would sound like this, "Don't you know that having a physical union with a prostitute means you are having a physical union with a prostitute."
  - b. Paul is implying that when Christ unites with a Christian, something happens on the spiritual level.
  - c. In a similar sense when someone unites themselves with a prostitute through sex, something happens on the spiritual level.
  - d. A deep bonding takes place.
  - e. This permanent bond should only take place between two people who have committed everything to each other for life.
2. God designed sex to bond two people permanently for life.

3. Dr. Stephen Arterburn writes,
  - a. "Sexual pleasure is one of the most intense human experiences. Physically speaking, when a man or woman reaches sexual excitement, nerve endings release a chemical into the brain called 'opiod.' 'Opiod' means opium-like and is a good description of the power of this chemical. Apart from a heroin-induced experience, nothing is more physically pleasurable than sex. This is a wonderful thing in a committed marriage relationship, because it helps to bond two people together and bring joy to living together and building a relationship." (Quoted by Driscoll, RM, 119)

iv. Application

1. Because sex creates such a strong and permanent bond, you should only create this bond with one person—for life.
  - a. Why?
  - b. When I was in college, I stuck posters to my wall with masking tape. What would happen if I tried to use the same piece of masking tape to bond 8 different posters to my wall. After the first poster, the tape would lose some of its ability to bond. After 8 posters there would be no bonding power left in the tape. The multiple bonding attempts would severely damage the tape.
  - c. In a similar sense when someone bond's sexually to multiple partners it damages their ability to permanently bond with one partner.
  - d. Does God forgive, of course, but there are still consequences for our actions.
2. Since this bond is meant to permanently bond two people together for life, it is more than a physical act.
  - a. This leads one author to ask some important questions.
  - b. "If sex is just physical, why is rape so much more harmful to a woman than simply being beat up?"
  - c. Why is it that when a child is sexually abused, when they are an adult and connect the dots, it is so difficult to shake off?
  - d. Why is adultery so devastating to a relationship?
  - e. Why is it that men with the deepest sexual issues often had uninvolved or missing fathers?
  - f. Why is it that most people's greatest regrets are usually sexual?
  - g. When somebody comes to me and says, "Pastor, I have to tell you something I have never told anybody else..." It's almost always sexual.
  - h. Everything in our experience screams out that sex is not just physical. Something much greater is at work." (JD Greear)

3. Don't create this bond with someone, unless you are willing to enter into a marriage covenant with them for life.
4. Every married couple knows that the sexual bond will be stronger when every other area of their relationship is synced up. Husbands, don't expect to have great sex with your wives if you refuse to lead them, provide for them (expand), and protect them.

- v. *God created sex for procreation*
- vi. *God created sex for pleasure*
- vii. *God created sex for permanence*

**e. God created sex for protection.**

- i. **1 Corinthians 7:2–5 (ESV) — 2** But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. **3** The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. **4** For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. **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.

1. "Conjugal rights" refers to the sexual rights that belong to marriage, that is, the right of spouses to have sexual intercourse with one another.
2. Paul says that the woman must give to the man his sexual rights and the man must give to the woman her sexual rights. Wow!!! This goes both ways, which was a radical statement of marriage equality.
3. Why? So that Satan will not tempt them to look for sex outside of marriage.
4. The best way to avoid sexual sin outside of marriage is to work hard at cultivating sexual intimacy inside of marriage.

ii. Application

1. Husbands don't demand sex! Be very patient with your wives.
2. Wives, do you best to serve your husband sexually.
3. There are seasons of life where this is challenging for a husband or a wife. Much grace must be extended.
  - a. The husband may be stressed out or exhausted...
  - b. The wife may have hormonal, emotional, or physical issues...
4. Don't use this passage as a club to get more sex... At the same time, listen to the spirit of the passage—be as sexually available to your spouse as possible. This is not a suggestion; it is a command from God. Work hard at this...
5. While lack of sex in marriage is never an excuse for sexual sin, one of the reasons a spouse may stray sexually is because he or she is not getting enough sex from his or her spouse.

- iii. *God created sex for procreation.*
- iv. *God created sex for pleasure.*
- v. *God created sex for permanence.*
- vi. *God created sex for protection.*

**f. God created sex for portraying.**

i. Introduction

1. What does sex ultimately portray?
2. Sex in the context of marriage is meant to be a portrayal of Christ love for his church.
3. How do I get here???

ii. **Ephesians 5:31–32 (ESV) — 31** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” **32** This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

1. Marriage is a beautiful portrayal of Christ’s love for his bride the church.
2. Sex in the context of marriage is a unique expression of self-giving love for one’s spouse.
3. Therefore, one logical conclusion is that the intimacy and joy of marital sex is meant to be a picture of the intimacy and joy of the church’s relationship with Christ...
4. “Sex is for fully committed relationships because it is a foretaste of the joy that comes from being in complete union with God through Christ. The most rapturous love between a man and woman on earth is only a hint of what that is like (Rom. 7:1-6; Eph. 5:22ff).” (Keller, MOM, 227)
5. The Bible often describes God’s relationship to his people as one of marital intimacy.
  - a. Jeremiah 2:1-2
  - b. Ezek. 16:8-14
  - c. Rev. 19:7-9

**iii. Application**

1. To be clear, there is nothing sexual about our relationship with Christ..
2. At the same time, the closeness and joy we experience in the most rapturous marital sex is a small foretaste of the closeness and joy we will experience in knowing the triune God for all eternity.

*g. Transition*

- i. *Why did God create sex? God created sex for procreation, pleasure, permanence, protection, and portraying.*
- ii. *Since God created sex for his glory, Satan wants to destroy it. Which brings us to the second main point.*
- iii. *First, the creation of sex...*

## 2. The destruction of sex

- a. Contrary to popular belief, Satan hates sex...
  - i. As a result, he has created several devices to destroy God's plan for sex.
  - ii. What are some of his devices for destroying sex?
- b. Adultery destroys sex.
  - i. Ex. 20:14 (Matt. 15:19; Rom. 2:22; James 2:11).
  - ii. Adultery essentially says that Christ is unfaithful to his bride.
- c. Polygamy and polyandry destroy sex.
  - i. Polyandry says that Christ and his bride have multiple lovers.
  - ii. Polygamy says that Christ has multiple brides.
  - iii. But there was polygamy in the OT.
  - iv. Yes, but the Bible never ever condones polygamy.
  - v. It is descriptive never prescriptive.
  - vi. Furthermore, whenever there is polygamy in the Bible, it led to catastrophic results.
- d. Pedophilia and incest (Lev. 18:6-18) destroy sex.
- e. Porn destroys sex.
  - i. This is such a massive problem in our culture that I'm going to spend a whole sermon on this in a few weeks.
  - ii. For now, know this, if you want to destroy your sex life, your marriage and your relationship with God keep viewing porn.
- f. Homosexuality destroys sex.
  - i. I will preach a whole sermon on this in a few weeks.
  - ii. For now, note this, Homosexuality is prohibited in at least six different texts of Scripture.
  - iii. Whenever it is described, it is always described as sin.
  - iv. Much more on this subject in a few weeks.
- g. Sin destroys sex.
  - i. Maybe not your sin, but sin in general.
  - ii. Because Satan tempted Eve to eat the fruit, sin infected every part of creation, including sexuality.
  - iii. As a result, some people can't enjoy sex because of medical issues which are a result of the fall (and not fault of their own).
  - iv. Some married couples have not had sex in decades for a variety of reasons (some your fault and some the fault of our first parents).
  - v. You may need to see a doctor or someone on our counseling team to get the help you need.
  - vi. The problems and solutions are often complex.
- h. Fornication also destroys sex.
  - i. What is fornication? Fornication is sex before marriage.
  - ii. This is clearly prohibited in the OT and the NT.



1. OT-
  - a. Ex. 22:16-17; Deut. 22:20-27 (sexual activity outside of marriage was punishable by death)
  - b. The punishment has changed, but the moral standard has not...
2. NT-
  - a. **1 Corinthians 7:9 (ESV) – 9** But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.
  - b. Paul tells couples that they should marry to avoid sin, because sex before marriage is sinful.
  - c. Furthermore, all the texts that prohibit sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18, 1 Cor. 7:2; Eph. 5:3; 1 Thes. 4:3) prohibit fornication.
  - d. How? This is the Greek word porneia, which refers to any sexual sin mentioned in the OT, including fornication.

iii. Application:

1. Fornication is sin that separates us from God and has massive consequences.
2. Furthermore, fornication does not lead to satisfaction.
  - a. "Numerous studies suggest that adults who waited to have sex until they were married experienced higher levels of satisfaction compared to those who engaged in sexual relations before marriage. According to the American Psychological Association's Journal of Family Psychology, a study of 2,035 married couples found that those who waited for sex until marriage rated their relationship stability 22 percent higher, their relationship satisfaction 20 percent higher, the sexual quality of their relationship 15 percent better, and communication 12 percent better than couples who engaged in sex before marriage.<sup>29</sup>" (Grudem, Ethics, 723)
3. In addition, fornication often leads to pain.
  - a. One scholar writes,
    - i. Sexually transmitted diseases have hit crisis levels and are on the rise in America, according to new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The data show that total chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis cases hit an all-time high in 2017 with nearly 2.3 million cases reported to CDC, surpassing the total reported to CDC for 2016 by more than 200,000 cases. (TGC, 9 Things you should know about the STD crisis, Joe Carter)
4. At this point, the singles want to know, how far is too far sexually?
  - a. The apostle Paul provides instructions for Timothy, a young single man.
  - b. **1 Timothy 5:1-2 (ESV) – 1** Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers,

**2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.**

- i. Would you stick your tongue in your sisters mouth?
- ii. Would you touch her private parts? I don't think so...
  
- c. But we are going to get married? Are you!!! I'm aware of three broken engagements.
- d. If you are dating, please consider getting some accountability for physical boundaries.
- e. Don't place yourself in foolish situations.
- f. Guys, you need to set the tone in this area.
- g. You are called to lead and protect (which includes protecting her purity).
  
- i. Finally, loveless marriages destroy sex...
  - i. Bitterness
  - ii. Unforgiveness
  - iii. Lack of romance and friendship...
  - iv. All destroy sex!
  
- j. Illustration
  - i. Recent wild fires wreaked havoc on Medical lake and north Spokane leaving hundreds without homes.
  
  - ii. Sex is like fire; fire is great in a fireplace (it provides heat and light) but fire is incredibly destructive outside of the fireplace (it burn's down houses and ends lives).
  
  - iii. Satan hates God's design for sex, therefore, he is working overtime to destroy it.
  
- k. Transition...
  - i. *Satan utilizes many means to destroy sex. Does this mean that we are all doomed to a life of sexual frustration? No! there is hope, which brings us to the final point.*
  
  - ii. *The creation of sex*
  - iii. *The destruction of sex*

### **3. The redemption of sex**

- a. The gospel of Jesus Christ redeems sexually broken people...
  - i. How?
  
- b. The gospel provides forgiveness
  - i. Forgiveness
    - 1. Fornication
    - 2. Incest
    - 3. Rape
    - 4. Homosexuality
    - 5. Adultery
    - 6. And every other sin...

- c. The gospel provides cleansing
  - i. Some of you feel dirty because of your sexual sin...
  - ii. Christ's blood cleanses...
- d. The gospel reminds us that vindication is coming...
  - i. Some of you were abused, raped, or molested...
- e. The gospel frees us from shame
  - i. Some of feel tremendous shame.
  - ii. Christ took our shame on the cross.
  - iii. Need for counseling...
- f. The gospel provides power
  - i. Power to flee sin...
  - ii. Power to forgive those who sinned against you...
  - iii. Power to confess your sins...
  - iv. Power to battle evil thoughts
    - 1. Martin Luther said,
      - a. "You can't stop birds from flying over your head, but you can stop them from making a nest in your hair."
      - b. We can't stop sexual thoughts from happening, but we can repent of them... and work hard to take every thought captive (Scripture memory).
  - v. Singles and married couples it is possible to say no to sexual sin. God has given you everything you need! We must rely on his resources.
- g. The gospel allows us to talk freely with our spouses..
  - i. Your sins have been forgiven.
  - ii. Open up and talk...
  - iii. You need to communicate.
- h. The gospel provides motivation
  - i. Serve the other...
    - 1. 1 Cor. 7...
    - 2. "Each partner in marriage is to be most concerned not with getting sexual pleasure but with giving sexual pleasure." (Keller, MOM, 233).
    - 3. One partner in the marriage often wants more sex than the other partner... but if the main goal is serving the other, that is ok.
  - ii. Husbands... serve her romantically
    - 1. This may mean connecting conversationally and emotionally, not to have sex, but simply to serve...
    - 2. Unless your overall marriage is in good shape, sex will not work nearly as well...
    - 3. Mention's CJ's book "Sex, Romance, and the glory of God."
  - iii. Husbands back off...
  - iv. Husbands don't do anything sexually that violates her conscience...
  - v. Wives, serve him sexually...
- i. The gospel provides joy.
  - i. Sex is not the ultimate joy.

- ii. There will be no sex in heaven...
- iii. The best marriages are pointers to the deep, infinitely fulfilling, and final union we will have with Christ in love.
- iv. In the moment of sexual temptation, we must remind ourselves that no sexual experience will ultimately fulfill us... it is impossible.
- v. This means you can remain a virgin your whole life and still experience deep and lasting joy.

4. Conclusion:

a. Our culture says that sex is nothing and sex is everything.

b. What does the Bible say?

- i. Sex was created by God.
- ii. Sex was destroyed by the devil.
- iii. Sex is redeemed by the gospel.
  
- iv. Sex is something, it is a gift from God, but it is not everything, relationship with the triune God is everything, since it is the source of everlasting joy. Let's pray...