

Worshipping Sex as God

Preaching about sex again today. That makes me fairly confident the attention of the men. Sigmund Freud said, “Men think about sex every 7 seconds.” I think it was Dave Barry who said women think about sex every time their husbands mention it!” (We’ll touch more on that next week!) This week let’s talk about the challenge of sex impurities like sex before marriage, pornography and adultery (skipping criminal sex like rape or incest.) PRAY.

It’s 1:30 in the morning and as the movie Paul and Shannon rented draws to a close, each is aware of the other’s racing pulse and rapid breathing. As the screen romance played out, Paul had pulled Shannon close. The silence after the movie ends seems to make way for what both are thinking. And before the night’s over, 2 “true love waits” promises are strewn on the floor among their clothing

Within seconds after his wife leaves for the meeting, Brad’s online. Frustrations with his boring wife and his frustrating job are magically replaced by the feverish rush as he clicks from site to site. The eyes and bodies of surgically enhanced women on starvation diets, all seem to want him. He switches to the chat room and soon is in intimate conversation with a woman he met online 2 weeks ago. Angie sounds like the kind of woman he wishes he’d married. Suddenly, hearing the car door close he logs off.

Dina collapses in her office chair with relief. The kids made the bus, her husband’s out of her hair, and Tom’s at his desk. She looks across the plant floor at the young, vigorous, and most of all, pleasant supply manager. She pages him under the guise of needing office supplies and he promises to bring them right over. He’s so attentive. She pays more attention to her hair style and wardrobe these days and Tom has said several times she looks nice. Today, Dina would never imagine that such innocent enjoyments will lead where they will within 2 months. True, she knows her marriage isn’t heaven, but *adultery?*

1. The god pollutes

READ Eph.5:3. Ladies and gentlemen, you reside in a world where sex is god. And, perhaps even in a *church*, where some worship this god. Professing Christians are climbing in the sack before marriage at near-secular rates. Perhaps some learned it from mom or dad. The last major survey done in Protestant circles said 1 in 4 churchgoers had committed adultery, and among pastors, 1 in 9. And at the brothel called “the Internet,” last August 9 million Americans visited a porn site. Internet porn is a one *billion* dollar business and yes, it’s making money on Christians and professing Christians.

If sex is god, what altar do you bow at? If the statistics about the Church are correct, some of you had sex with your date last week, had sex with someone other than your husband, your wife, or clicked your way around sex sites. *“But among you, there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality.”*

Why not? The reasons our schools give—and many parents, are the side effects: surprise pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases. Dangerous *indeed*. But greater dangers make *these*, trifles. READ 1 Cor.6:13b-20.

Any heterosexual union is a marriage of sorts. With God in the picture—and in sex he always *is*—there are no such things as one night stands. Every page in your sexual history is a mini-marriage. V.18 singles out sex sin as a *unique* sin; the *single* sin against your own body. Surprisingly, Paul doesn't include suicide in this. There is something unique about sexual sin. It pollutes *God's* home—your body—like toxic waste would pollute *your* home. Illicit sex can defile you not only physically (possible diseases, possible pregnancy), not only emotionally (rejection if the partner abandons you later, hostility with partner if a child is created but a home is not, hurt resentment), not only financially (especially if a child is created), but spiritually. For sex and the spiritual life are inseparable.

Consistently, surveys and studies return data saying that married couples who are religious, are much more sexually satisfied than those who aren't. Why? Sex and the spiritual life are inseparable. When you're in sync spiritually, the chances of being in sync sexually, improve.

2. The god competes

READ Ex.20:3-5b. God tolerates no competition. That is as true—perhaps even *especially* true—of the sex god. READ 1 Thess.4:3-7. If you are a Christian, God distinguishes between you and the person who's not; between you and the pagan; between you and the lost person; between you and a man or woman of the world. And God refuses to stand by idly while Christian and pagan look and act the same. He tells His children, "Get your sex drive under "control" (4). Be different from those still in the world.

READ Eph.4:17-19. Do you see the biblical contrast God makes between sexual sinners and sexual saints? It is not between people who are tempted and those who aren't. The Bible *assumes* sexual temptation is a growling beast, demanding his way. READ 1 Cor.7:2. *But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.* God goes so far as to say in v.5 that husbands and wives should meet each other's sexual longings because otherwise, the devil has a shot at you.

The contrast in these two passages is deliberately between Christians and nonChristians; in 1 Thess., believers vs. "the heathen." In Eph.4, believers vs. "the Gentiles" (shorthand for the heathen). Is he saying that only the heathen sin sexually? Of course not. He's saying, brother, sister, this is not who you are. Sexual sin is the normal conduct of *lost* people; not redeemed.

So what's the secret? White knuckles? Denying our feelings and drives?

A. Here's a simplistic answer: stop sinning sexually. "Oh sure," you say, "Sounds easy." No, simple. You know a partial explanation for the explosion of Christian counseling ministries? It's sometimes a less-demanding substitute for those who sniff at the advice, "Just say 'no'."

Nancy Reagan did not invent the concept; God did. Find Tit.2:11-13b. READ. "It" teaches us. *What* teaches us? *The grace of God.* In other words, the ability to say "no" is not primarily ours, but God's. He wouldn't tell us to stop something without giving us the power to do it; His grace is heaven's power for the believer.

B. And because God desires your purity even more than you do, prayer. Jas.4:2, you do not have because you do not ask God...

C. But the deep-seated issue is not just wrong sex, but wrong worship. READ Rom.1:21-25. When you gather sexual sin into your arms, your eyes, your body, you worship a substitute god. You worship what God made, instead of God; the creation, not the Creator. We worship that woman, that man, whether he or she is in person, glossy, or digital.

And the great irony is, that like a cheap street souvenir, our idolatry gains us only a discolored, poorly-made, plastic imitation of the diamond God offers those who obey him. A rare and superior jewel offered by the Mastermind who spoke sex into existence and all the physical, emotional, and yes—spiritual pleasure that can explode from it.

Concl:

Last week we talked about hope for the homosexual; is there hope too for the heterosexual who's tempted? Most is sought in one of two directions:

- It's too hard; I'm going to give in;
 - Look at pornography
 - Not to sleep with my girlfriend
 - Not to meet secretly with that guy from the office
- God, take away my lustful feelings and longings

We pray, for deliverance from temptation. But no verse I know of in the Bible *guarantees* deliverance. Many *do* however, push us to persevere in the face of great odds. For God is with us. Worship Him.

How? By singing songs? Yes, and more. Worship is adoration and obedience born of gratitude. And gratitude grows as the appreciation of the gift does. All this comes not in a vacuum, but a book. Guidance, refreshment, education, and actual empowering come through this book. Eat it, drink it, breathe it; it imparts life. Learn the God to worship; learn the way to worship. In time, other gods will slink away through neglect. Someone has said, *the smaller your God, the bigger your problem; the bigger your God, the smaller your problem.*