

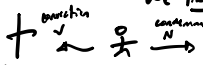
• IDOL: anything besides God I believe gives wholeness.

• Sex is "VERY GOOD." It's originally God's. We're not trying to smother something of the world here.

What is sexual immorality?

- Grk "porneia" or "fornication."
 - ↳ Sexual expression between two unmarried people
 - ↳ Also "lustful passion" as Jesus spoke against; lust in the mind + heart (Matt 5:27-28)
- This was ANATHEMA to Greek culture, even MORE so than today's culture.
 - ↳ pedophilia
 - ↳ prostitution
 - ↳ adultery
- ↳ Why is this so angering?

- ▷ We see sex as a right, as part of our identity + self-expression (personal value)
- ▷ Or as a need; you threaten a fulfilling, joyful life
- ▷ We like it + are addicted; don't you dare touch it



Why should it be married?

- Why is purity so valuable?
- Why is sexual immorality so serious?

5 REASONS

What's the right response? Personally vs congregationally

CONGREGATIONALLY

→ Context is important (in church vs outside of it)

Church discipline

- Heart of restoration
- Purity of fellowship? (v11)

How, in contrast, do we walk w/ the world?

PERSONALLY

Repentance

- 1 John 1:9
- 1 Pet 1:3-4

Relationships

Sex is a good pleasure, but a terrible god.

• IDOL: anything besides God I believe

gives wholeness.

Sex will not bring you wholeness. It's unable to.

Web 13:1-5
"In the promise of P. 16-11
God is the God of life"

Sexual immorality not to be tolerated rather mourned

Thom 1:2, 3:1, 5:3, 6:2 16
1 Pet 1:13-16 "just up the line of your mind"
Gal 5:18-22 words of flesh/papists

Scripture

- 1 Thess 4:1-8 "abstain from sexual immorality... let no one defraud you in this"
- Heb 13:4-5 "the body is under the judgment... God will judge" *no content in them*
- Matt 5:8 "blessed are the pure in heart, for..."
- Prov 7 "her house is the way to hell"
- 1 Cor 6:11 "such were some of you"

Matt 5:8

Purity directly affects your relationship w/ God, others, + self

▷ Matt 5:8 "they shall see God" *Ps 118:5:19*

God can heal + forgive these wounds + tears!

• "Then impurity must cloud our vision of God. If our vision of God is clouded (especially in this instance by thoughts of sexual impurity), how does that not effect every other area of our lives?" - Tracy Gray

▷ Ps 24:3-4 "who may ascend the hill... pure heart"

▷ Others

- Relationship w/ God affects relationship w/ others
- Respect, value, others - connectedness
- Future spouse. Specialness of virginity, thoughts of past flings in the relationship, etc
- Witness to unbelievers
- More

God can heal + forgive these wounds + tears!

▷ Self

- Relationship w/ God affects our thoughts toward self
- Shame, humiliation, guilt
- Direct impact on self-control, self-denial, self-sacrifice, selflessness
- ▷ Purity protects relationships + hearts.

God can heal + forgive these wounds + tears!

Our purpose is life-defining

- "you are not your own" 1 Cor 6:13-20
- we exist to bear the image of Christ
- we exist to represent Christ to the world
- we exist to walk in an intimate love relationship with Christ

▷ All of this has something to say abt our sex lives.

1 Cor 6:11 "and such were some of you"

1 Pet 1:13-16

Gal 5:16 walk in the Spirit

1 John 1:9

The world portrays pleasure as flesh-in-the-past passion that moves from love to love and fantasy to fantasy. But does this sort of pleasure really fulfill? or does it actually deepen our discontentment? Who clicks on one pornographic picture and stops, satisfied? Who fantasizes for a few seconds and stops, satisfied? The offering of worldly pleasure can't satisfy a heart that was created for a deeper, lasting pleasure.

It promotes the sort of pleasure a married man feels when he uses a liturgy of desire. He feels a thrill, hope, yes in the end disappointment only amplifies the emptiness.

"True pleasure is not found finally in having an amazing sex life, but in an amazing God, filling your sexual satisfaction and sexual dysfunction to Jesus, because that is the ultimate goal of it all: to bring you closer to him."

3. Find contentment in God today.

Remember that your fulfillment as a person is not dependent on being sexually or romantically fulfilled. Jesus was never married, never romantically involved, and never had sex. Yet Jesus was the most fully human and complete person who has ever lived.

Now you might think, "Yeah, but I'm not Jesus. I get it. But please hear this: God's pleasure is not dependent on sex. A wonderful spouse will never fulfill you. (Neither was our spouse can do what only God can. Seek to be satisfied in him, and if God gives you a spouse, you'll be free to enjoy him or her all the more.)"

• Fire in fireplace!

"By continually neglecting God's good design for sex, [we settle] for flashes of sinful passion instead of the valuable white-hot coals of enduring intimacy. God designed sex to be best enjoyed when it is based on something other than appearance or performance. He bases it on committed love that reflects the unending love he has for all those who trust in Christ."

God Is Better Than Sex

God ordains love-making for couples when we are richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, when life is better or worse — until death do us part — because it reflects his enduring love for us.

We discover a depth of pleasure when we laugh and cry and pray and trust and weep and mourn and hope together. Lovemaking is more than just erotic pleasure; it is a soul-kissing intimacy that deepens with time. God designed this soul-level intimacy to reflect the deep, intimate, committed, faithful, servant-hearted commitment between Jesus and his bride, the church.

The goal of sex isn't ultimately just enjoying your spouse, but it is enjoying God as the giver of good gifts. God is better than the best sex. We know this because for all of eternity we will live in a new heaven and new earth better than this one, a world in which we will not experience marriage or sex as we do now, but we will have a better and lasting pleasure with God (Matthew 22:30; Psalm 16; Isaiah 51:1; Revelation 21-22).

• Sex is so good + so powerful + so meaningful
• Sex is GOOD "VERY GOOD"

Jordan
by drawing a marriage

Gen 1:31 → "multiply" is pre-sell

1 Tim 4:3-4 "they prohibit marriage... everything is to be received w/ thanksgiving"

• Sex is far more than a physical act / physical gratification

Gen 4:1 "knew" → it is a GIVING act. Baring of the soul. A critical part of "become one flesh." NOT THE ONLY PART.

Emotional. Soul. Spiritual. Physical. Bonding + intimacy.

The only good/right/healthy place for this is in covenant.

• Sexual immorality damages you in body, mind, + spirit

6:18 "sin against his own body" spirit

Matt 5:29 "pluck out your eye"

It reduces it to physical gratification. Corrupts the future bond in marriage. Destroys the picture of Christ. All of great cost to you.

↳ Instead of very good, honoring, thankful, beautiful commitment + covenant you get brokenness, shame, + humiliation.

↳ Tears, rips, shreds → God can heal it all

"Fidelity increases the joy of married sexual relations b/c it draws us from the gift of the past to the gift of the future"

of God's gift

→ Sex of Cognition vs pig ppl

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

- 1 Jn 1:9 Confess - report - to God + right man
- Matt 5:29 do what it takes to deal w/ it
- Phil 1:6 dependence on God in you
 - Gal 5:18-22 Fruit of the Spirit vs flesh
- Eph 4:22-24 put off, be renewed, put on
- 11 Cor 10:5 "take every thought captive"
 - Phil 4:8 "whatever is..."
 - 1 Pet 1:13-16 "god up the bias of your mind..."

• Marriage is so good + sacred + serious

1. IT'S GOD'S DESIGN (Gen 2)

II. IT DISPLAYS GOD

→ IT IS WORSHIP!

• Marriage was God's design

• It's for God's glory

• He gave away the first bride

• It exists to display God

• God spoke its design into existence (Gen 2)

• Eph 5:22-32 - it reflects

• God performs the one-flesh union

God's covenant with us

• It's a beautiful partnership, co-helpfulness, companionship, intimacy - ONENESS! UNION!

• It is a COVENANT. A deep, soul-level dedication that must never be broken, "til death do us part."

Matt 2:19 "covenant" contrast

• "Marriage is not ultimately about emotional/physical satisfaction. It's about keeping covenant" + displaying Christ + the church.

• Purity protects, honors, + blesses this relationship. Adultery/sexual immorality takes a hammer to it.

• Adultery reveals disdain for your God.

↳ Picture used of rebelling Israelites (Hosea 1:2, 3)