

Faith Christian Fellowship
October 8, 2017
Honoring Marriage
3: Clean Up, not Cover Up

Hebrews 13:4 MSG Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex. / 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Marriage: It is designed to provide companionship, to reflect the love of Christ for the Church, and provide a safeguard against sexual sin.

Today: I already made a mess. Now what?

- 1) So we already slept together
 - a) Stop it now! Ask God to forgive you, then put up safeguards for the future. If you're living together, move! For Heaven's sake, don't get married to make it legal.
 - b) A poor choice is a life-changer: Job 2:9 / Abigail's' first husband: 1 Samuel 25:25
 - c) God puts marriages together. Eve was the last perfect fit. After the fall we deal with the fallen nature. – Marriage is a process, not an event.
 - d) Many marry for the wrong reasons. Once you are married, you are married, so choose wisely.
 - e) Obey God and He will help you to love your spouse.
 - f) Criteria for selecting a mate?
 - i) Look to be equally yoked: 2 Cor 6:14. You cannot serve 2 masters. Matt 6:24
 - ii) Sexual demands before marriage are a sign of selfishness, self-centeredness. Demand respect.
 - iii) You need a friend, someone you enjoy being around when you are not sexually aroused.
 - iv) If you are not OK without them, you won't be OK with them..
 - v) Prepare yourself by becoming the right person. God will bring you the one He has prepared.
 - vi) **Don't marry without counsel with spiritual leadership.**
- 2) I married an idiot and we are divorced
 - a) Divorce is not the unpardonable sin. Stuff happens, and you can't unscramble eggs.
 - b) Divorce causes damage. Deal with divorce debris. Matt 19:4-6
 - c) **Learn to choose better:** Left unguided or unchanged, without a conscious re-evaluation of actions and motivations, you will choose another one just like the other one.
 - d) **Don't remarry without a serious effort at change and healing.** Get counsel from your spiritual authorities.
- 3) I made a terrible mistake, but we're still married.
 - a) You made a covenant. Honor it. Give an honest effort.
 - i) If there is adultery, talk to your pastor.
 - ii) Don't stay in a dangerous situation. Get out, get help, and talk to your pastor. Nothing changes unless something changes.
 - iii) Situations must be confronted, but don't do it alone. Matthew 18:16-20
 - b) **God's secret ingredient for an effective marriage:** Submission: God's road to intimacy. Eph. 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. "Place yourselves under each other's authority out of respect for Christ." (GW)
 - i) Submit. Primarily a military term. To adapt to one another's strengths and weaknesses so as to present a unified front to the enemy.
 - ii) We do this "out of reverence for Christ." Jesus is the Head of our house. We arrange ourselves in whatever order is necessary to put Him in charge
 - c) **Get some help!** Don't just put up with it. Pride keeps us silent.
 - d) **Concepts to live (together) by:** Ephesians 5: 21-33
 - i) Jesus is the Head of our home. His glory is our purpose.
 - ii) My spouse is not my enemy. Husbands love, wives respect.
 - iii) Submission is given, not demanded or required.
 - iv) We are one. Our problems and victories are shared equally.
 - v) The goal of communication is understanding and empathy, not persuasion.
 - vi) The aim of submission is agreement. Agreement brings power.
 - vii) In a Christian home, we pray together regularly. It is our first resort.