

I. Faith Christian Fellowship
II. October 1, 2017
Honoring Marriage
2: The Power and Purpose of Sex

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

We saw in these verses some very important ideas:

- Marriage is to be honored by all, God values it
- Sex is sacred
- Sexual sin is dangerous.

We began examining the origin, nature and purposes of marriage: It is designed to provide us with companionship, and is intended to reflect the love of Christ for the Church. Today we look at the most widely debunked aspect of marriage: It is supposed to be a safeguard against sexual sin.

In our secular culture, marriage is optional and reversible, sex is a social transaction, and sexual sin is non-existent.

We will look at the power, the purpose, and the pitfalls of sex.

- 1) Sex is a powerful force in human events
 - a) So many powerful and famous folks have been ruined by uncontrolled appetites. List
 - b) Sexual desire drives even the most powerful of men to bizarre and reckless acts. Genesis 34 / 1 Samuel 2:22./ Judges 14 / 2 Samuel 11 / 2 Samuel 13 / 1 King 11:1 (Proverbs 5:1-14 /6:20-35 / 7:4-23). / Genesis 38:6-30
- 2) God intends sex to be wonderful and sacred
 - a) The most obvious purpose is procreation. We share that with all the mammals. We want to look at the things that make sex sacred for humans. That is a big difference.
 - b) The sex drive in humans is actually the intimacy drive. **Animals have sex. Married couples have communion.** In God's order it brings refreshing, healing, and strength for the day. Perverted it brings disaster and oppression.
 - c) Intimate. Synonyms include personal, deep, cherished, private.
 - d) The institution gives us a clue: Genesis 2:23-25.
 - d.i) Leave and cleave

d.ii) Become one flesh – marriage brings a new entity into existence.

d.iii) Naked and unashamed

- e) There is sustenance and strength in the love of my wife. Prov 5:15-20 the wife of my youth is
 - e.i) A source of life-giving water. The only rightful recipient of the life I have to give.
 - e.ii) In the act of intimacy, I am *satisfied* (Psalm 65:9-10 watered), and *enraptured*
 - f) The woman draws value and joy from being intimate: Song of Solomon 7:10 I *am* my beloved's, And his desire is toward me. 5:16 Yes, he *is* altogether lovely. This *is* my beloved, And this is my friend. O daughters of Jerusalem!
- 3) This holy, sacred communion is worth safeguarding. 1 Corinthians 7:1-9
- a) V. 1 If you are single, begin to call celibacy good, not a sacrifice. Jesus did it and He will empower you to do it, too. Hebrews 4:16.
 - b) V. 2 .Multiple sexual partners is characteristic of the animal kingdom, not humans. Each should have their own spouse.
 - b.i) V. 3, 4. Part of the covenant is the obligation to fulfill the needs of the partner. This may require some effort and learning.
 - b.ii) V. 5. Failure to do these things will inevitably result in sexual temptation.
 - c) V. 6-8. Single is good, but single or married, you need grace.
 - d) V. 9. God doesn't want you to run around miserable all the time, but He does want this powerful force harnessed.
- 4) While you're waiting
- a) 1 Corinthians 6:18 NLT **Run from sexual sin**
 - b) 2 Timothy 2:22 NLT **Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts.**

God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.

*Then each of you will control his own body
and live in holiness and honor—
not in lustful passion like the pagans
who do not know God and His ways.
1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 NLT*

Coming Attractions:

Pitfalls of sexual sin, and cleaning up the mess you made.