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SEX:
A BIBLICAL
DISCUSSION

PREFACE

- Just a forewarning, this discussion may be uncomfortable for some because the subject of sex is one that I have found to rarely be discussed within the church, save for the matters of preaching against adultery and fornication. However, the Bible has much to say about sex beyond just adultery and fornication.
- Since the Bible does not shy away from the subject, we should not either. We especially need to be able to provide our young people with answers about sex that come directly from the Bible. I hope this study will provide some of those answers.

SEX HAS A PURPOSE

We find in the Bible that sex has two purposes:

I. Reproduction

- ***“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’”*** (Gen. 1:28).

SEX HAS A PURPOSE

We find in the Bible that sex has two purposes:

1. Reproduction
2. Prevent Sexual Immorality
 - ***“But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband . . . 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. 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 Cor. 7:2-5).***

A MIRRORED RELATIONSHIP

I am of the opinion that marriage was designed by God as a picture of the covenant relationship He wants with us.

- ***“In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. ‘A man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church”*** (Eph. 5:28-32).
- ***“For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ”*** (2 Cor. 11:2).

A MIRRORED RELATIONSHIP

Two Parallels:

I. Giving of the Body

- In marital sex, there is a giving over of the body, and in our spiritual relationship with God, we are also to give over our bodies - "***I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God***" (Rom. 12:1).
- Just as we give our bodies and our entire beings to God through service to him, sex likewise exemplifies a giving of the body because '***the wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife***' (1 Cor. 7:4).

A MIRRORED RELATIONSHIP

Two Parallels:

1. Giving of the Body
2. Physical Covenant
 - Blood serves to bind the covenant between man and God (Gen. 15; Ex. 24:8; Heb. 9:19-22; Luke 22:20; Heb. 9:12; Heb. 13:20).
 - Usually, (*I apologize for my bluntness and however crass this may sound*), blood is shed when a virgin woman has sex for the first time. Therefore, it can be said that sex between a virgin husband and virgin wife (which is as God intends it to first be [Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:1-4]) serves a covenant between the man and woman, similar to the covenant we have with God in the New Covenant through Christ's shed blood.

STRICTLY FOR REPRODUCTION?

Consider The Song of Songs (Songs of Solomon):

The Song of Songs is a book consisting of a playful back-and-forth between a husband and wife. The man and woman are both feeling the “heat of the moment” as they call back and forth to one another throughout the book, and they leave no detail out when describing their love and longing (i.e. sexual desires) for one another.

- The woman describes the man by saying, “***Like the finest apple tree in the orchard is my lover among other young men. I sit in his delightful shade and taste his delicious fruit***” (2:3).
- The man responds by describing the woman as “***my private garden, my treasure, my bride, a secluded spring, a hidden fountain***” (4:12).

STRICTLY FOR REPRODUCTION?

Consider The Song of Songs (Songs of Solomon):

- Why would God include such a provocative poem in the Bible? Simply put, it's because sex is meant to be pleasurable and, if a husband and wife desire to have sex simply for pleasure, the Bible does not condemn them for it.
- However, if a couple only desires to have sex for the purposes of reproduction, they can do so as well.
- Whatever group we fall into, all people should heed Paul's warning: "***For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust***" (1 Thess. 4:3-4).

CLEARLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES

Love that is stirred up in its proper time is beautiful and even encouraged by God (1 Cor. 7:2-6). However, love stirred up outside the proper time is nothing more than a pursuit of the desires of the flesh.

- ***“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do . . . Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God”*** (Gal. 5:17-21).

CLEARLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES

The Bible repeatedly defines clear boundaries that exist for sex:

- Through the Song of Songs - the book of passion we examined previously - the woman longing for her husband also repeatedly warns, “*I charge you, do not stir up or awaken love until the appropriate time*” (Song of Songs 1:5, 2:7, 3:5, 8:4), clearly indicating a boundary for an “*appropriate*” coming together between the husband and wife.

CLEARLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES

- 1 Cor. 7 draws the clearest line on what 'is' and 'is not' within the boundaries God provides. Paul addresses a number of issues, both for those married and for the unwed in this chapter, but it might be summarized like this:
 - 1) Husbands should fulfill the intimate needs of their wives, and wives should do the same for their husbands (v.2-5).
 - 2) If you are single, dating, engaged, or married, everyone must control their passions and not give in to temptation (v.1-10).
 - 3) For scripturally married people, have sex with each other only. (v.2-5).
 - 4) For single people, control your passions and avoid sexual immorality. (v.8-9; 36).

CLEARLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES

- The need to recognize the boundaries God has placed on sex is important because the Bible says we should not just avoid, but “***flee all sexual immorality***” (1 Cor. 6:18).
 - The word “immorality” translates the common Greek word ‘porneia.’ This word refers to sexual activity outside of a legitimate marriage relationship.
 - There is a wide variety in which sexual immorality exists, such as adultery, fornication, lust, sodomy, homosexuality, etc.

CLEARLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES

- Breaking God's defined boundaries for sex was so prevalent during the first century that it is warned against in nearly every letter that Paul wrote (1 Cor. 5; 6:9-18; 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:7).
- The apostles also included similar warnings in the first letter written in Acts 15 (Acts 15:20, 29).
- The Holy Spirit also inspired John to include a stern warning of the spiritual consequences that befall those who engage in such sexual immorality in the book of Revelation (Rev. 2:21; 21:8).
- We must take heed and not fall outside the confines of the boundaries God has clearly defined.

CONCLUSION

1. Marital sex is the only sexual expression approved by our Creator.
2. It serves as a covenant between a married man and woman that mirrors the covenant we have with God.
3. Though God approves for us to take pleasure in it, sex should always treat it as a sacred gift to be enjoyed only by a scripturally married husband and wife.
4. We should guard our eyes and hearts from any outside temptations that try to sully or steal that sexual intimacy and pleasure that God approves.
5. We should likewise remember the two-fold purpose of sex and never cross the boundaries God has given us in His Word.