

BEYOND THE BODY

THE PROMISED LAND WEEK 5 | DAVE D'ANGELO

1 Corinthians 10:5-8

Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." **We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.**

When it comes to sex in our culture there is a problem:

- Pornography is pervasive
- Modest and purity are words no one says
- Role models are selected by how sexy they look

→ We are tempted to believe the lie that love is our God and sex will fulfill our desire for meaning, identity, peace and purpose.

Sex is everywhere, so why are we still lacking peace and purpose, and struggling with identity?

When we worship a creation instead of the Creator destruction always follows.

We must address the brokenness our culture has when it comes to sex through the lens of God's Word, not through our personal pause reactions.

Psalm 119:114

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.

WHEN IT COMES TO SEX:

1 Who defines morality—me or Thee?

Genesis 1:1a

In the beginning, God...

→ It is God's sacred story—for Him, from Him, and through Him.

There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine! - Abraham Kuyper

Our problem with sex doesn't begin with lust, with bad choices or with sexual misbehavior. Our problem begins when we forget that God must be at the center of this part of our lives as He must be with any other. When you have no greater motivation in sex than your own satisfaction, you are already in sexual trouble, even if you don't know it yet.

- Paul David Tripp

From Genesis to Revelation, sexual immorality is always referred to as sin.

Porneia: Greek word for sexual immorality

God also shows us what sexual morality looks like:

- Man and woman
- In marriage

2 What are my expectations of sex—movie or trailer?

Question: What am I asking for from the pleasures of sex?

→ Pleasures of this world are signs, not destinations, created for His glory.

Jesus is our Savior. The pleasures of this world are for the purposes He assigned to them.

BIBLICAL PURPOSES OF SEX:

1 **Unity and oneness**

Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

2 **Procreation and betterment**

Genesis 1:28

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."

3 **Mutual pleasure**

Song of Solomon 1:2

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine;

"Indeed, sex is perhaps the most powerful God-created way to help you give your entire self to another human being. Sex is God's appointed way for two people to reciprocally say to one another, 'I belong completely, permanently and exclusively to you.' [Sex]...is your covenant renewal service."

-Tim and Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*

Sex was never meant to tell us who we are and why we are here—we can only expect that from Jesus.

3 How will I respond to sexual immorality—spear or cross?

Numbers 25:1-3

While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.

→ Sin never stops with sex. It always ends with idolatry and worship.

Numbers 25:10-13 MSG

God spoke to Moses: “Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has stopped my anger against the People of Israel. Because he was as zealous for my honor as I myself am, I didn’t kill all the People of Israel in my zeal. So tell him that I am making a Covenant-of-Peace with him. He and his descendants are joined in a covenant of eternal priesthood, because he was zealous for his God and made atonement for the People of Israel.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

The spear addresses the sin but kills the person.

The cross atones for the sin and saves the person.

How do we respond to the sexual immorality of our world? **We run to the cross and we take people with us.**

The only place to find help and hope for our sexual brokenness, our sexual immorality, is in the Grace of God—through the cross of Jesus Christ.

John 8:3-12

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said,

“No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go and from now on sin no more.” Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Jesus got close to sexual immorality and slowed down because there was a person at stake.

→ Jesus was fully grace and fully truth. We are called to be the same in a broken world.

Question: Do I need to drop a stone?

Question: Do I need to repent?

Sermon Resources:

God, You, & Sex: A Profound Mystery

David White

Sex in a Broken World

Paul David Tripp