

Purity Part 2  
What's The Big Deal About Sex?  
1 Cor 6:18

(Give out pencils).....

At one point in my life I would have believed that all sin is the same to God

But when I walked through deliverance from pornography I learned that Paul didn't think so  
He told the Corinthian church there is something qualitatively different about sexual sin

\*Why? Because sex is not something you do; sex is someone you are

When you have sex you put your life on the line – you are giving away something you can never get back

\*Purity and impurity are more than external issues of behavior and culture or even practice

Purity and impurity cut to the soul of who you are

They are at the living core of who you are and who you will become

News flash – sex wasn't invented by Hollywood or Miley Cyrus or some pervert in an internet chat room

Sex was created by an infinitely holy God who is covered in blinding light and glory, surrounded by radiant holy angels

The goodness of sex stands or falls with the goodness of its Creator

(Gen 1:31) – “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good”

Sex was part of the “all” that was so good

Even after the fall of man, God's Word speaks openly of the pleasures of sex within marriage

(Pr 5:18-19) - *18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.*

(Song 4:5, 7:1-9)

\*Sex is the means by which children are conceived and marital intimacy is expressed

Both are very important to God

\*When sex takes place in its proper context, in the spirit of giving, the Creator smiles

### The Power of Sex

Here is what makes this sermon series so important: Sex is incredibly powerful; its able to do immense good...or immense harm

Fire is a gift from God

What would we do without it?.....

But if those flames move outside their boundaries, what happens? – horrible devastation, pain & death

\*The greatest gifts of God taken outside their God-intended boundaries become powerfully devastating

So it is with sex – its potential for great good has a flip side – potential for great evil

Fire in a fireplace keeps you warm – but fire set free burns down a house

I have experienced and walked with people who's lives have been ruined by immorality

I have seen the hopelessness of not knowing if their lives can be rebuilt

It can be – believing they can is another matter

Its like a permanent imprint in my soul

On the other hand, to embrace purity is lay claim to a magnificent gift

Purity is incomparably beautiful – it's a beauty the will never end because all who live in heaven will be pure (Rev 21:27) -

### Where Are The Boundaries?

The Bible teaches us that the boundaries of sex are actually the boundaries of marriage

Sex and marriage go together

You cant have one without the other

And you shouldn't have one without the other

Sex is intended as an expression of a lifelong commitment

Apart from marriage, the lasting commitment is absent and sex becomes a lie

Sex is a privilege inseparable from the responsibilities of the marriage covenant

To take that privilege apart from the responsibility of it perverts God's intentions

Every act of sex outside of marriage actually cheapens both sex and marriage

Sex is designed to be the joining of two persons, two spirits, not just two bodies

Sex should never be given to someone you are not 100% committed to in marriage

Not taken from someone to whom you're uncommitted

“But we really love each other” has no bearing on the ethics of sexual intimacy

Sex doesn't become permissible because of your feelings

Sex is only permissible in the lifelong covenant of marriage

Those are God's rules as much as gravity is His rule (push the books off)

There is nothing we can do to change them – the rules are always enforced  
When we break them they always break us  
God's rules are not there to punish or deprive us, but to protect us

#### **Purity and God's Will (1 Thess 4:3-8)**

How many times have we heard people talk about finding God's will

We speak of God's will as if it were lost or as if it was some kind of puzzle that take a lifetime to solve

**You don't have to wonder where God stands on sex outside of marriage (vs. 3)**

How clear is that?!!!!

Many people are searching for God's will but most of those same people don't bother to live by what Scripture says is God's will

What's the point of seeking God's will in less important things if you ignore what He has already told you – to be pure

#### **Christ disciples did not live by lust – and that set them apart from the pagan culture around them**

The church today needs to rediscover that critical aspect of our identity, as His spotless bride

The problem isn't passion – its lust

We serve a passionate God

We should serve Him and love Him passionately

But we must cultivate our passions for the right objects not the wrong ones

**"Learn to control his body" means it doesn't come naturally**

Otherwise you wouldn't have to learn it

It requires training and discipline

Listen, resisting temptation is a gutsy, courageous, stubborn refusal to violate God's law

Its repeatedly calling on God for the strength to say **NO** to the world, the flesh, and the devil – to say yes to God instead

We do this in pursuit of the ultimate joy – that can only be found in God

#### **Do you want God's will? Truly?**

Then embrace purity – learn to control your body

Refuse to take sexual advantage of anyone

#### **Who Owns Your Body? (use the pencil illustration.....)**

Why are you shocked? Because I broke their pencil

It was really my pencil – I gave it to them

Now everything changes, doesn't it?

Since it belonged to me I have the right to do with it what I want

If it belongs to some else I have no such right

So **who** does my body belong to? (**1 Cor 6:19-20**)

When I got saved the title of my life transferred from me to God

I was bought and paid for – at what price?

The shed blood of God's Son!!!!!!

We are His by creation and again by redemption

He has every right to tell us what to do with our minds and bodies

I have no right to do whatever I want with my body

#### **What a blessing for us that God always acts, not only for His glory, but for my best interest**

So I can trust that whatever He forbids would have hurt me

And whatever He commands will only help me