

Sex, Sin and the Supremacy of Christ

Raul Reyes - President, Life Equip Global

Pastor John Piper states, *“Sexuality is designed by God as a way to know Christ more fully. And knowing Christ more fully is designed by God as a way of guarding and guiding our sexuality.”* That is worth committing to memory.

The better you know the supremacy of Christ, the more sacred and satisfying and Christ-exalting your sexuality will be. In order for our lives to make sense, they MUST be oriented around the Glory of God in Christ - Christ as the sun, around which every aspect of our life and worldview, including our sexuality, revolve.

Piper states: *“Whatever God made is good, and every good thing God made has an intended purpose that ultimately reveals His own glory.”* Understanding the supremacy of Christ - which is shown to us through His word - can guide and guard and govern our sexual lives. Without Christ at the center of our sexuality, it can be corrupted into an act of selfishness that demands more and more, while getting less and less in return.

If we in any way keep from embracing the fullness of the knowledge of God, we open ourselves to becoming a potential casualty in the war Satan has declared against your sexual purity. The will of God is our sanctification: that we abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of us knows how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God (1Thess. 4:3-5).

It is vital that you remember that you, your marriage, your children, even your sexuality, all belong to God. Abraham Kuyper states that: *“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’.”*

Our sexual behavior is a result of our values which are a result of our worldview. And our worldview, in order for it to have any worth, must be completely grounded in the word of God. And the word of God shows us that we are to be unselfish in everything. Sexual behavior is not meant to be experienced alone or for selfish reasons. Sex is to be an act that joins a husband and wife at the deepest level. It should be an act of complete unselfishness. It is a physical representation of the covenant relationship between a husband and wife.

Any sexual act that is selfish or does not involve your spouse is contrary to God’s desire for your relationship. Self-satisfying sexuality is just about self. Again, as Piper says, *“Sex is the sign of the marriage covenant itself. And to engage in sex is to call God as witness to hold us accountable for our covenantal commitment.”*

Regardless of our compulsions, addictions, or desires we can build up a wall of defense by always remembering God is with us. Regardless of our level of addiction or desire, we do not commit adultery, satisfy ourselves sexually, or watch pornography *when our spouse is in the room*. In the same manner, we only behave inappropriately by forgetting that God is with us. Piper goes on to say *“The only way you ever sin is by suppressing God, by forgetting, by tuning out his voice, switching channels, and listening to other voices. When you actually remember, you actually change. In fact, remembering is the first change.”*

There may be levels of addictions and compulsions which can best be addressed by an experienced Christian counselor. But NOTHING can take the place of a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. Almost without fail, when someone is floundering in sexual sin, it is because they have not embraced the admonishment to flee sexual temptation. Not resist, not stand strong - FLEE. And almost without fail, those struggling sexually, when asked to tell about their prayer life and time in the word, respond that it is weak or virtually non-existent.

The supremacy of Christ is the foundation that will keep you in the times of storms.

Spiritual Impact

Satan desires to lead every individual as far as possible away from God. He will attempt to accomplish this using whatever means possible. Sexual sin is an effective - and destructive - method for separating a person from God. After an individual sins sexually, Satan will use guilt, shame, condemnation and accusations to hinder repentance and encourage further sin. If the individual has a relationship with God, Satan is pleased to damage that relationship. If the individual does not know the Lord, the enemy is pleased to harm his or her future relationship with God. At all times, Satan will seek to tempt the sexual sinner into more sin, ensnaring him or her into a pit from which escape can seem impossible.

In sexual sin, the temptation to sin *more* can feel very powerful. But in Romans 6:1, Paul says, *“Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?”* While the consequences of sexual sin may be more destructive and far-reaching than the consequences of another, seemingly lesser sin, God views all sin as equally unholy. He stands ready to offer redemption to the repentant sinner, whatever the sin. God can redeem immoral behavior and wash all sin - sexual or otherwise - white as snow, restoring purity to the most wicked of sinners (Isaiah 1:18).

Emotional and Relational Impact

As image-bearers of God, we were made to love and to be loved. In our hunger for intimacy, sex can sometimes seem like the only way to get the love we desire. However, for those who engage in sexual sin, they may discover that not only does sex *not* help them to find love, but it often leads to hurt, estrangement, and broken relationships. God designed sexual intercourse to bind a husband and wife together. Over time sexual intimacy within marriage can strengthen the union of a man and woman.

There is an emotional bond created during sexual intimacy. When a couple engage in sexual activity outside of marriage, the bond that is created is not protected or regulated by the covenant of marriage. When difficulties come up, as they often do in a relationship, either partner is free to walk away, often leaving the other person suffering the effects of a broken heart. Outside of a committed relationship under the marriage covenant, sex can become the primary focus taking the place of true sharing, intimacy and communication.

Physical Impact

According to God’s design, a primary outcome of sexual intercourse is procreation. Of course, our age, disease or a decision not have babies can affect that outcome. Sexual intimacy often results in pregnancy, whether or not it is planned or desired. However, because many people want to experience the intimacy and pleasure of sexual intercourse without the consequence of pregnancy. Contraception - the deliberate use of artificial methods or other techniques to prevent pregnancy as a consequence of sexual intercourse - is increasingly used to prevent pregnancy. Except in the case of sterilizations, contraception or birth control is never 100 percent effective. Consequently, when an unexpected pregnancy occurs, the couple is left with the decision to proceed with the birth of a child or to “terminate the pregnancy.” To let the child live, or end its’ life by abortion.

In marriage, pregnancy is generally accepted as a natural outcome of sexual intercourse, even if the pregnancy happens to come at an inconvenient time. Outside of marriage, however, pregnancy is often unwelcome to such a degree that it is considered a crisis, and an abortion is often chosen in order to avoid this natural consequence. For a woman who gets pregnant outside of marriage, she faces several pressures that bear heavily on her decision to abort her child.

Some of the most often stated reasons for abortion are:

- Having a baby would change my life in negative ways
- I can't afford a baby
- I don't want to be a single mom
- I'm being forced into an abortion by my husband, boyfriend or family
- In my culture and my situation I must have an abortion or be ostracized

If the societal, relational and financial pressures prove too much for the woman, she may feel like she has no other option than to abort her child.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

There are more than 25 infections that are commonly transmitted through sexual activity. More than 1 million sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are acquired every day worldwide. Each year, there are an estimated 376 million new infections with 1 of 4 STIs: chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and trichomoniasis. In marriage between partners who have no sexual history with others, there is *zero* risk of contracting a sexually transmitted infection (STI). Outside of marriage, however, the risk of contracting an STI rises exponentially with the number of sexual partners. A person is vulnerable to all of the infections carried by his or her partner's *previous* sexual partners.

For example, if a woman's partner has previously engaged in sexual activity with ten other women, he may be infected with a disease from one or more of those ten women. During sexual intercourse with this man, the woman is exposed to the infections of *all ten* of these other women, since her partner may carry one or more infections. Going up one more level, the woman is actually exposed to *all of the previous partners* of all ten of the other women, since her partner has been exposed to any infections these women may have contracted. The only way to totally avoid sexually transmitted infections is to engage in sexual intercourse exclusively with one's husband or wife, assuming that person is also free of infection.

Sex, within the bounds of God's stated boundaries - marriage between one man and one woman - and when used unselfishly, should be a pleasurable act that deepens the feelings of love between two individuals that brings them closer to each other and closer to God. Sex outside of marriage often leads to guilt, heartbreak, unwanted pregnancies and the horror of killing a child by abortion. When sex is used outside of marriage, it always leads to sin and often death and destruction. When we keep the supremacy of Christ at the center of all we do, including our sexuality, Christ is honored and sex is used as it was designed to be used.