



## MESSAGE THEME

*“Living distinctly in a sexualized world”* Ephesians 5:3-4 Pt 2

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**SERIES THEME** –*Infinitely More than..*

### INTRODUCTION

Sex and the Greco-Roman world of the 1st century:

- Pornography was rampant in Greco Roman art.
- Roman men, married or not, were expected to have pre-marital and extra-marital sex with slaves and prostitutes.
- Prostitution was not only legal but considered a public good.
- Roman men were legally allowed to have forced sexual relations with their wives and women of a lower social status.
- Pedophilia (man and young boy) was accepted practice.
- Homosexuality was considered acceptable and normal (primarily man on man).
- Julius Caesar had popularized the rage for celebrity cross-dressing when, aged 20, he lived the life of a girl in the court of King Nicomedes IV, and was later referred to as ‘Queen of Bithynia’, “every woman’s man and every man’s woman”.
- Tiberius, meanwhile, dressed as a woman for his debaucheries on Capri, and Caligula sometimes showed up at banquets dressed as a woman.
- Nero found Sporus: not a woman, but a young man to be one of his wives. Nero’s people castrated the ex-slave, and the couple married.
  - Sporus routinely accompanied Nero decked out as his empress.
- Infanticide was a common practice, to minimize the consequences of immorality.

**Sex and the Western** World of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Pornography is of epidemic proportions.
- Studies show that by age 20, 75% of Americans have premarital sex.
- Sex outside of a committed relationship is upwards to 80% with college students and 95% by age of 44.
- Human trafficking is at over 45 million people globally, of which the U.S. is one of the top three nations perpetrating this egregious violation.
- Transgender ideology has gained acceptance and support along with gender confusion.



- Not only are children and youth being groomed into gender dysphoria, confusion, and transgenderism, but our entire society is being groomed in this perversion.
- Dr. Erwin Lutzer writes, *The sexual revolution continues to accelerate, taking everything in its wake. . . ., it intends to destroy the very concept of masculinity and femininity in a child's earliest ages. . . . How do you corrupt children? . . . you normalize the bizarre. In public libraries across America, drag queens are hosting story hours for children. In this phenomenon that has been sweeping the nation, grown men dressed in lurid outfits and wearing excessive makeup read books promoting the LGBTQ agenda to children as young as three years old. These presentations are used to indoctrinate young children into accepting transgenderism, encourage them to dress as the opposite sex, and promote other deviant behaviors and belief systems. Dylan Pontiff, aka Santana Pilar Andrews when in drag, uses his stage name at both the adult clubs where he performs sexual acts and at Lafayette Public Library when he's with young children. In his own words, he reveals his intentions: "I'm here to let you know that this event is something that's going to be a very beautiful act for the children, and . . . that this is going to be the grooming of the next generation."*
- There are significant and severe consequences to the digression into this sexual morass.
  - Confusion, chaos, depression, suicide, physical and genitalia mutilations, addictions, and more.
- Dr. Carl Trueman, a church historian and fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center says regarding the kind of sexual behaviors and sexual identities we are seeing emerge, *"Be shocked, not surprised. . . . What we are seeing is not a trivial thing, and we should be shocked. Do not allow the normalization . . . of wickedness to dull your senses to the outrageous horror of what is being perpetrated. . . . But I'd also say this: don't be surprised, because there is a long-standing history of what's going on today and you can see how this has emerged over time. . . . The speed can be breathtaking. The speed has caught us all by surprise. But, when you actually get down into the history, it becomes obvious that what's happening now is the result of deep-seated and long-standing causes. . . . The sexual revolution is a symptom—rather than the cause."*
- In both cultures, at the time of the Early Church, and ours, a biblical, Christ-centered sex ethic seems like an oddity to society, many are offended by it.
  - Yet ,that distinction of a God-centered sex ethic is a powerful witness, it changed the Roman world, and it can change ours, but not if we are indistinct.

## GOD'S KINGDOM AND SEX



*Ephesians 5:3–4 (NASB 2020) But sexual immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness or foolish talk, or vulgar joking, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*

## Male and Female – Two Become One Flesh

*Matthew 19:4–6 (NASB 2020) And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, 5 and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no person is to separate.”*

- Jesus Christ established a viable sexual counter-culture; one where women and men were expected to be sexually chaste prior to marriage and sexually faithful within marriage.
- Jesus declared God’s original design for marriage and in that for sexuality by quoting the creation account in Genesis.

### Male and Female

- God created sexual distinctions of male and female, 2 genders.
- Jesus’ quote makes it clear that marriage is a God designed union of one man and one woman who leaving their families of origin to begin a new family.
- In a moral fluid society, we can be secure in God’s truth, that is immutable.

### Two Become “One Flesh”

- “One flesh” represents the human person in a comprehensive sense and served as a term to represent the total person as seen in Job 19:26, “And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.”
- Sex and sexuality are designed by God to express the highest and most intimate of human unions before God, an expression of love, and an expression of the depth of the unity of God the Father, Son, & Spirit.

**Bruce Waltke:** “One Flesh” means to be united, stressing unity while recognizing diversity within that *oneness*. . . . *one flesh*, indicates more than mere sexual unity.”

**R.K. Harrison:** The term translated “flesh” was used by the ancient Hebrews as a figure of speech.

- This term was used to designate the personality in its totality.
- One’s sexuality is not merely physical; it is intricately related to and is identified with who you are in your total person.



**1 Corinthians 6:15–16 (NASB 2020)** *Do you not know that your bodies are parts of Christ? Shall I then take away the parts of Christ and make them parts of a prostitute? Far from it! 16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.”*

- Subsequently, we have the understanding of **soul-bonds** or **soul-ties** that can be unhealthy and that the demonic world uses in spiritual bondages.

## Sex Is Designed by God

- Sex is part of God’s creation. God looked at all of creation after creating Adam and Eve, which would have included their sexuality and sex, He said, “it is very good!”

### For Procreation

**Genesis 1:28 (NASB 2020)** *God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

### For a Sacred Expression

- Sex is a gift from God, it is sacred to Him, and therefore it is sacred in and of itself.
- In God’s eyes it is the highest expression of love, commitment, devotion, and surrender in a relationship.
- God established it as the crowning act in a marriage relationship to demonstrate intimacy, trust, loyalty, love, and unity.
- It’s an expression of love, and the depth of the unity of God the Father, Son, & Spirit and God’s heart for the nation of Israel in the O.T. and Jesus with the Church.

### For Marital Fulfillment and Pleasure

- Sex in the marriage relationship is the coming together of two individuals, demonstrating a dedication and trust to one another before God in the deepest expression of love, loyalty, devotion, and surrender in relationship to one another in the total integration of personhood in body, soul, and spirit.
- Marriage and sex within marriage is honorable.

**Hebrews 13:4 (NASB 2020)** *Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.*

**Proverbs 5:18–19 (NKJV)** *Let your fountain be blessed and rejoice with the wife of your youth. 19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her . . . satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.*



- It is more than a mere physical act; it is an act that mysteriously and yet in a very real way integrates the personhood of two individuals into a sacred union.

## Satan's Design for Sex

- Because Satan knows that human sexuality integrates our entire being, he puts great effort and energy towards its perversion from God's sacred design.
- Perverted sexual activity (outside God's design), tears and mars the fabric of an individual's very soul.

## Violate and Damage Children

- When children are violated sexually, they become shattered in their being violated — they can't assimilate it or understand it — but the dignity of their very personhood has been violated.
- Many enter self-destructive life patterns as a result, and into deeper levels of sexual perversion.

## Violate and Damage Youth in Pre-marital Sex

- Youth who enter the perversion of pre-marital sex, recognize something of great value was lost, dignity and self-esteem were taken from them.
- It many times leads to other self-destructive activities to apply some form of anesthesia to their emptiness and inner shame.

## Violate and Damage Adults

- Without always being able to put definition to it, that is why infidelity in marriage is so devastating and crushing to violated spouses.
  - It is more than merely a physical act, but it is an act of the deepest betrayal.
  - Divorces are painful because it is a literal tearing of the fabric of one's soul.
  - For Christians, marital, sexual infidelity as a Christian is sin against God.

## APPLICATION

### Guard the Sacredness and Significance of Sex

- We see why and how sex is so integral to human life, it is to be set apart for marriage.
- And why Satan will prioritize his effort and energy to pervert sex in any and every culture, because in it he will destroy the very fabric of the souls of men and women, youth, children, and eventually a whole society and world!



- Can you see how both realms of this world (heavenlies & natural) interface in this arena of sex?!!
- That is why our conduct and conversation are to be distinct. We represent God!!
- This is why God commands and warns to guard sexual relationship.
  - No Adultery Exodus 20:14; 1 Cor. 7:1-5
  - No Fornication Galatians 5 19
  - No Incest Leviticus 18:6-18
  - No Homosexuality 1 Corinthians 6:9
  - No Cross-Dressing Deuteronomy 22:5
  - No Rape Deuteronomy 22:25-28
  - No Lust Matthew 5:28

## Guard Against Self Righteousness

Woman caught in adultery – John 8:1-11

- Jesus dealt first with the self-righteous Pharisees consumed in a religious spirit.
- Then Jesus dealt with the sin of the adulterous woman.
- While we must stand strong against the predatorial ideology of sexual perversion in its various forms, we must live in Christ's compassion for individuals who are victims in the demonic assault of sexual perversions.
  - Let's not forget that we have been forgiven of our sins.

## Live in God's Healing Power

- Some need to ask forgiveness for violating God's design for sex and sexuality.
- Some need to grant forgiveness for having been violated or betrayed.
- Some need to strip jurisdiction from Satan through forgiveness and breaking soul ties.