

“Strange Beauty: Sexual Lives” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | January 31, 2021

Old Testament Reading: [Song of Songs 1:2; 5-6: 4:1-7](#)

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!
For your love is better than wine...
5 I am very dark, but lovely...
6 Do not gaze at me because I am dark,
because the sun has looked upon me.
My mother’s sons were angry with me;
they made me keeper of the vineyards,
but my own vineyard I have not kept!

4:1 Behold, you are beautiful, my love,
behold, you are beautiful!
Your eyes are doves behind your veil.
Your hair is like a flock of goats
leaping down the slopes of Gilead.
2 Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes
that have come up from the washing,
all of which bear twins,
and not one among them has lost its young.
3 Your lips are like a scarlet thread,
and your mouth is lovely.
7 You are altogether beautiful, my love;
there is no flaw in you.

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles: [1 Corinthians 6:13-7:3, 7:27-31](#)

“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 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, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

7:1 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” 2 But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.

27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not

Introduction

Sex is union with another person. What we do with our bodies matters. Sex can be destroying or healing, but, even at its most beautiful, it is only a taste of what we ultimately need: union with God.

Background

1. Corinth’s View

- The Corinthian Christians had internalized the views of the culture around them.
- In one view, sex is an appetite. It doesn’t matter what we do with our bodies.
- In another view, the physical world is defiling. Therefore, we should eat, drink, and have sex as little as possible.
- Neither of these views is consistent with the biblical view of what it means to be human.

2. Paul’s View

- Sex is the union of one’s entire personhood—body and soul—with another person.
- Our souls are shaped by what we do with our bodies.
- The same touch can lead to life-stealing trauma or life-giving euphoria, depending on the people and context involved.
- Sex should be healing.

3. Our Possibility

- A Christian doesn’t need marriage, sex, or children.
- What we ultimately need is union with God.
- Sex is just a taste of sharing God’s life.
- Our identity does not depend on our sexual lives.
- Jesus came to Earth to honor us and to die serving us.

Discuss

- Why is it often so difficult for Christians to discuss sex?
- Do we sometimes ostracize people who have committed certain types of sexual sins (or who experience certain types of sexual desires) and see them as less than human (or less than Christian)?
- How do we treat, or how have we been treated as, unmarried believers? Do we really believe Paul when he says that a Christian is not required to get married and have children?
- How does Christ giving himself to us show us how our sexuality can be healing instead of destructive?

Conclusion/Application

What we truly need is union with God. But we make an idol of so many things, including sexuality. Sex can build us up or tear us down, but our identity is not determined by our sexual lives.

Prayer

Father, you are the lover of our souls. Please forgive us for treating sex as either too trivial or too ultimate. Help us fix our gaze on Jesus, who gave himself, body and soul, for his Bride. Through your Spirit, make us more like him. Thank you for loving us more than we can understand. Amen.

sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. 29 This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, 30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, 31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Gospel Reading: [John 4:4-18](#)

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."